

Two Palestinians wounded in clash with Israeli troops

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Two Palestinians were lightly wounded by Israeli gunfire Monday when youths demonstrating for the release of prisoners held by Israel stoned Israeli soldiers, witnesses said. About 150 youths took part in a solidarity march in Bethlehem in support of Palestinian prisoners, especially Itaf Al Ayyan, a Bethlehem student who has been on a hunger strike in an Israeli jail for nearly three weeks. The marchers went from the centre of Palestinian National Authority-controlled Bethlehem to Rachel's Tomb, a Jewish holy site still under Israeli army control on the town's edge, and threw stones at the soldiers. The Israelis responded by firing tear gas and rubber-coated bullets which wounded two of the Palestinians before the youths dispersed, witnesses said.

Volume 21 Number 6686

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية غير حزبية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"

AMMAN TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1997, RAJAB 11, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 fils

First El Al flights to land in Aqaba Tuesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Monday confirmed a news report that two Israeli passenger planes will land at Aqaba airport for the first time on Tuesday. Bassam Salaytah, director of Air transport at the CAA said that an El Al plane from St. Petersburg, in Russia, will land in Aqaba at 3 p.m., and another from Frankfurt will land at the airport later in the day. These will be the first Israeli flights to use Aqaba Airport since an agreement was signed by Jordan and Israel last August. According to Mr. Salaytah, passengers will be transported by buses to and from the Israeli side across the Wadi Araba crossing point. The aviation agreement between the two countries stipulates that flights headed for Eilat would land in Aqaba, the first step towards a joint airport to serve the two Red Sea towns.

Aziz asks world to give Iraq a chance; 8 demands to Security Council unveiled

American 'spy plane' flies over Iraq out of missile range

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI ENVOY Tareq Aziz urged world powers Monday to allow Baghdad's case to be heard before considering measures to force Iraq to allow weapons inspections.

"Give us a chance. Give us a chance before stampeding another unjust resolution against Iraq," Mr. Aziz told a news conference following meetings here.

"Let the council give us the opportunity to comment on these accusations," he said.

Mr. Aziz spoke after meeting with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, Chinese Ambassador Qin Huasun, who currently holds the presidency of the Security Council, and Russia's U.N. Ambassador Sergei Lavrov.

Mr. Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, arrived here to negotiate an end to a stand-off with the United Nations over Iraq's decision on Oct. 29 to bar Americans from taking part in U.N.-mandated weapons inspections.

He reiterated his argument that the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) for disarmament of Iraq by U.S. nationals and argued that France was under-represented in the mission.

Mr. Annan earlier told Mr. Aziz that Baghdad would have to drop its ban on U.S. nationals before it could make its case for ending sanctions to the Security Council.

The 15-member body was scheduled to convene a meeting at 3:30 p.m. local time yesterday to consider further steps to force Iraq to allow the weapons inspections.

Also on Monday, Iraq released a list of eight demands for the Security Council, calling for the immediate lifting of the oil embargo and replacement of a U.S. spy plane by one belonging to a "neutral country."

The demands were contained in a letter given by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz to U.N. envoys who visited Baghdad last week in a bid to defuse a crisis over U.N. arms inspections, the Iraqi News Agency

(INA) said.

Mr. Aziz was holding talks at the United Nations in New York on Monday in a bid to resolve the crisis sparked by Iraq's Oct. 29 move to sever cooperation with U.S. members of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament.

"The letter includes fair and legitimate demands which Iraq recommends the Security Council discuss objectively," INA said.

The agency reported the demands as:

"First: That the U.N. Security Council decide to immediately apply Paragraph 22 [of Resolution 687] without any supplementary condition." The paragraph provides for the lifting of the oil embargo imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait once its weapons of mass destruction have been destroyed.

"Second: To act henceforth toward the total lifting of other embargoes.

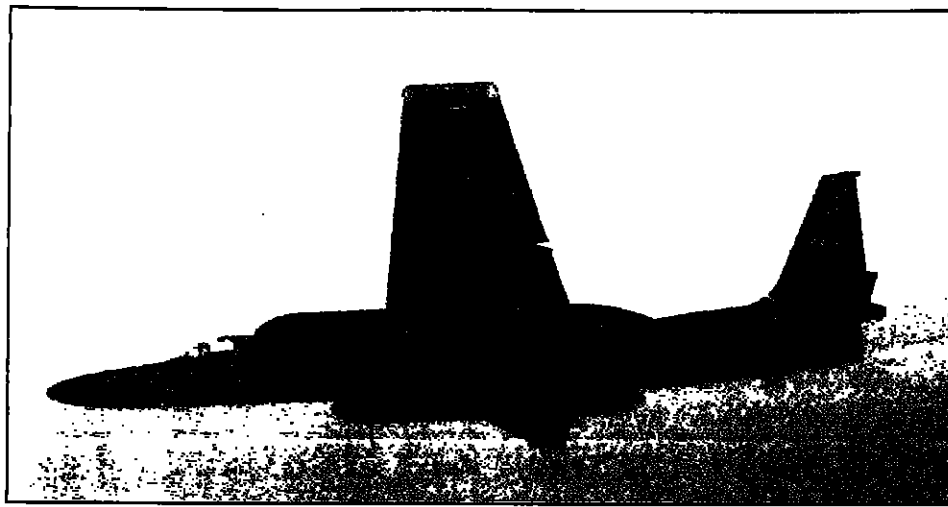
"Third: To establish an equilibrium in the composition of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) responsible for Iraqi disarmament so that the number of experts and officials coming from the permanent member states of the Security Council are balanced, and that their prerogatives are balanced.

"Fourth: The cancellation of the article concerning postponement of the revision of sanctions until April 1998... so that the revision be carried out every two months as before.

"Fifth: To not violate, in any manner, [Iraq's] sovereign rights, and the suspension of inspections of sites bearing on national security.

"Sixth: That the U-2 reconnaissance plane be replaced by another plane from a neutral country which does not have a hostile position toward Iraq.

"Seventh: That the Security Council commit itself as an institution, and that the members of the council commit themselves as states, to respect the sovereignty of Iraq conforming to the principles of the charter [of the United Nations] and to the



A file photo of a USAF U-2 spy plane. Iraq said a spy plane crossed its international border early Monday from Saudi Arabia. An Iraqi military spokesman said the U-2 plane was in their airspace but was outside the range of their missiles (Reuters photo)

U.S. ships in Gulf ready for action

ABOARD THE USS NIMITZ (AP) — The commander of a U.S. Naval Force in the Gulf said Monday that despite Iraq's military alert the United States was fully prepared if tensions escalate into an armed conflict.

"We have a very good intelligence as far as what the Iraqis are doing... There is some heightened readiness and awareness by them [Iraqis] and we know what they've done," said Rear Admiral John Nathman, commander of the seven-ship battle group.

"We are looking at a number of options that are available to respond to a crisis like

this," said Rear Adm. Nathman, dressed in a khaki uniform and standing next to radars monitoring activity in the Gulf.

"We have a great combat capability here on scene and it's ready to go. I think this is a strong message for the Iraqi government," he said. "We haven't left the Arabian Gulf and... we bring a great combat power projection capability."

Rear Adm. Nathman spoke to visiting reporters while the aircraft carrier Nimitz cruised under a rainy sky in the northern Gulf some 160 kilometres southeast of Iraq.

our airspace in a way which preserves our sovereignty and security," he said, without elaborating.

The U-2 reconnaissance plane on a mission to take photographs for the U.N. flew over Iraq for three hours but steered clear of anti-aircraft defences, military spokesmen here said.

The high-altitude plane was escorted by "several formations of fighter planes... on board of which we detected several instruments for spying," Mr. Sahaf said.

He said the escort "shattered" the U.S. argument that the U-2 was being used only to back up operations on the ground of the Special Commission in charge of disarmament.

Iraq has threatened to shoot down U-2 flights on the charge that they have been used in the past to select tar-

gets for U.S. strikes. Mr. Sahaf urged Saudi Arabia "to ban the use of its territory and airspace by the U.S. and British aggressors because such actions are in violation of the charter of the Arab League."

A military spokesman said the U-2 entered Iraqi airspace from Saudi Arabia to the south and left by the same route, after flying near the Iranian border.

The U.S. television network CNN quoted congressional sources as saying a detail of U.S. fighter jets flew near the U-2 to provide cover in the event of an attack.

Amid the tension over the flight, U.N. arms experts in Iraq decided to take a "day off" from inspections of weapons sites, following seven straight days of being turned back, a U.N. official here said.

Higher Court ruling against Al Mithaq suggests 13 other weeklies may face same fate

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A ruling handed down by the Higher Court of Justice on Sunday against Al Mithaq weekly newspaper has set a worrying precedent for future rulings on the fate of 13 weekly newspapers, weekly newspaper editors and lawyers said Monday.

"It seems that they are going to rule against the weeklies," said Bassem Sakjija, former chief editor of Al Bilad, one among the suspended publications. "There are statements within the verdict that give right to the government to regulate the press."

For example, he said, "the court wrote in its verdict that the 'state has the right to organise the press if it is necessary for the national interest'."

Al Mithaq brought a case against the government early last summer, claiming that the government had violated the paper's acquired rights in demanding that it raise its capital from JD15,000 to JD300,000, as stipulated in the May amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law.

Al Mithaq lawyers have also argued that its publisher, Dar Al Wihdah, is legally registered as a "limited liability" company under the Companies Law, and therefore, is required only to put up half of the capital requirement now and pay the remaining half within the next two years as required by that law.

The ruling of the Higher Court, presided by Judge Farouq Kilani, however, described the weekly's claim that their acquired rights had been violated as "unfounded."

The verdict stated that "the legislator [the government], in its attempt to organise the media has the right to specify certain conditions... in accordance with the public interest, to preserve public order and to make the new rules immediately applicable to all legal circumstances without the right of anyone to protest that such measures infringe on acquired rights."

Lawyer Hani Dahleh, who is representing 13 other weeklies suspended in September, in their battle to have the law rescinded on the grounds that it is unconstitutional and a violation of acquired rights, said that the court had essentially abolished the notion of acquired rights through its ruling.

"The new law provides amendments to the rulings [on the press issued under the previous law], and therefore, this ruling, by upholding the temporary law, abolishes acquired rights," he said during an interview with the Jordan Times.

However, he said, "the ruling is disputable, since legal scholars have differed over this and some say that it should not extend to situations that have been established before the issuance of the new law."

He also said that he expected the Higher Court, which may rule on the case next week, to apply the same ruling to the 13 newspapers, although not all are registered as "limited liability" companies, which means

that the capital requirements that apply depend on the classification of the company according to the Companies Law. Regulations under the different classifications do not necessarily obligate these companies to pay their capital in full, as the government has demanded in the case of the weeklies.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that at least eight of the weeklies contesting the law reregistered this summer as "general partnerships" and at least one reregistered as a "sole proprietorship." They were unsure of the status of the other three.

Meanwhile, Al Mithaq lawyer Faisal Al Batayneh yesterday criticised the court's ruling in an interview with the Jordan Times saying that "the ruling was not a legal ruling as much as it was a political one."

Mr. Batayneh had argued in court that Al Mithaq had proven to have paid up sufficient capital, a claim which he says is substantiated by official documents from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

However, the court ruled that Al Mithaq paid only JD86,000 of the required capital.

Mr. Batayneh said that Dar Al Wihdah is considering reregistering the paper as a partisan paper, which is subject to different requirements. He did not specify which party the paper would be affiliated with, but added that it would most likely become the mouthpiece of one of several parties under establishment, such as the Democratic National Party.

Saudi Arabia confirms boycott of Qatar's MENA conference

Combined agency dispatches

SAUDI ARABIA is to boycott the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Doha because the Arab-Israeli peace process is still deadlocked, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told Agence France Presse (AFP) here on Monday.

"Saudi Arabia will not take part in the Doha conference because there has been no progress to make the kingdom change its attitude," he said.

"Israel's careless policies are to blame for the deadlock in the peace process and are blocking any regional cooperation," Prince Saud said after talks with his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharazi. His comments came a day

after Kuwait became only the first Gulf Arab state to announce it will take part in the MENA conference which opens on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), after a Gulf tour last week by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk to lobby support for the conference, said their participation depended on progress in the peace process.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak left for Saudi Arabia Monday for talks expected to focus on the controversial regional economic conference with Israeli participation.

President Mubarak, who has described the conference as "meaningless," flew to the Saudi capital, Riyadh, immediately after a meeting with visiting Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

Presidential sources said Mr. Mubarak would discuss the MENA conference with King Fahd during a brief visit.

The Egyptian president has visited the UAE, Bahrain and Oman this month. On Saturday, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said that last week's round of talks between Palestinian and Israeli negotiators in Washington had achieved nothing. (see separate story).

Qatar, backed by the U.S., has said it will hold the meeting regardless of declarations by several Arab countries that they would boycott the event or send low-level delegations.

Parliament expected to convene after appointment of Upper House's forty senators by Royal Decree

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein is expected to appoint the 40 members of the Senate upon his return from the U.S., and convene the new Parliament at the beginning of next month, informed sources said Monday.

The King, who is undergoing routine medical checks at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and is also scheduled to visit Britain before the end of the month, could appoint a new Cabinet or entrust Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to carry on and reshuffle his government, the sources added.

Observers also said that if His Majesty decides to appoint a new prime minister, such a step will come before Parliament convenes.

In any case, whatever government is in office at the convening of the 13th Parliament will have to go through the process of obtaining the Lower

House's vote of confidence as stipulated by the Constitution, as well as the House's approval of the 1998 fiscal budget before the end of the year.

Addressing a press conference last week on election day (Nov. 4), the King stated that the issue of the double mandate of parliamentarians serving also as ministers in the next government would be addressed in due time, and added he had not yet taken a final decision on the matter.

But indications so far are that a new government will be appointed, especially in light of the King's designation letter to Dr. Majali last March, in which the prime minister was specifically entrusted with overseeing the 1997 elections, observers said.

Deputies said Monday they expected the four-month ordinary session of the 13th legislature to begin in the first week of December, and noted that speculations on a new government were also affect-

ing informal negotiations as to who might be elected speaker of the House.

According to the House rules, the 80 deputies are to choose their speaker during the first parliamentary session, immediately after the King delivers the traditional speech from the Throne.

Also according to parliamentary regulations, the Lower House speaker is elected with an absolute majority of 41 votes in a first round of elections, or with a simple majority in a second round.

The Arabic press reported in the past few days that at least nine representatives are so far competing for speakership.

Deputies said, however, that because independents constitute two thirds of the new House and the formation of parliamentary blocs is still unclear at this stage, predictions over the favourites in the race for this year's speakership are difficult.

"We are still meeting and getting to know each other," said one of the can-

didates for the speakership. "With 54 new faces in Parliament, it will take time to determine who will support who," he added.

One observer pointed out that National Constitutional Party (NCP) Secretary General Abdul Hadi Majali was determined to nominate himself for speakership, but "that depends on whether his brother will still be Prime minister when Parliament convenes."

The NCP, which claims 17 representatives in the new Parliament, though only two of its candidates were elected on the party's official ticket, could become the strongest bloc in the House, unless the many independents work out some sort of coalition in the next two weeks.

Some observers indicated that among the candidates for the speakership are also NCP Undersecretary General and former Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ra'uf Rawabdeh, former Minister of Justice Abdul Karim Dughmi, former

House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour, and former Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb.

However, others pointed to Islamist Deputy Abdullah Akaleh as a possible candidate, and there are speculations that the King will appoint prominent Islamist leaders in the new Upper House, in order to give them representation notwithstanding their boycott of the elections.

Muslim Brotherhood overall leader Abdul Majeed Thuneibat welcomed such a possibility, and said that the reasons behind the boycott of the parliamentary elections did not pre-judge participation in the Senate.

The Arabic daily Al Arab Al Yawm this week quoted Dr. Thuneibat as saying: "Senators are government employees. The government might appoint one of the Brotherhood members as an ambassador. Can we refuse such an appointment?"

Netanyahu says Israel will retain control of vast parts of West Bank

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Monday that his government planned to retain control over much of the West Bank and strengthen Jewish settlements in the territory under any final peace agreement with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Mr. Netanyahu unveiled his vision for a "final status" arrangement with the Palestinians to 3,500 members of the central committee of his right-wing Likud Party. "We will keep broad security zones, notably in the Jer-

dan Valley, the Gush Etzion [block of settlements south of Bethlehem], and a wide band along the separation line" between Israel and the West Bank, he said.

"We will also retain the settlements, which we will continue to strengthen," he said.

"Greater Jerusalem will also remain under our total sovereignty because Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the people of Israel and the Jewish people," he said. Israel uses the term Greater Jerusalem to include not only the eastern sector of the city occupied in 1967 but also

several settlements lying in the West Bank.

Mr. Netanyahu did not specify how much of the West Bank his plan would keep under Israeli control although past press leaks outlining his ideas put the figure at more than 50 per cent.

The Palestinians, who signed the Oslo interim peace accords with Israel's previous Labour government says those agreements should already have placed around 90 per cent of the West Bank under its control.

Feminists protest honour killings

JERICHO (R) — Majed Jalaytah tried to strangle his sister and when that didn't work he threw her off a roof and smashed a stone on her head.

For Jalaytah, a West Bank construction worker, it was a matter of honour to rid his family of the shame caused by his sister's alleged sexual misconduct.

"I don't regret killing my elder sister Majdiah. I am proud of what I did," Jalaytah, 28, said as his wife nodded approval of the act committed 10 years ago.

Tried in an Israeli military court, the Jericho man was sentenced to two years in prison but served only 18 months — the type of term usually imposed for so-called "honour killings."

After he killed 25-year-old Majdiah, a doctor who examined the body pronounced her a virgin.

Virginity is a symbol of honour in Middle Eastern society. Islamic law, or Sharia, suggests that a single woman who loses her virginity should suffer 100 lashes after proof is obtained.

In practice, suspicion of sexual impropriety is sometimes reason enough to murder a woman, usually by strangulation or forcing her

to take poison. Gaza women mobilise against violence.

"We know of around 20 cases last year in the West Bank and Gaza, but the number of honour killings is much higher and they are not reported in this tribal society," said Abeer Jaber, an activist at the Gaza Community Mental Health Women's Programme (GCMHWP). "Unfortunately, women themselves are brought up to believe that they are always at fault and should pay with their lives for their mistakes and the mistakes of others," she told Reuters.

Arabs are taught to respect their traditions and religion, regarding them as above the law.

Custom and religion dictate that a woman must be a virgin before marriage. Women and men don't usually mix and the female's role in life is to protect the family honour by adhering to religion and social norms.

Nahla Abdo, a sociology professor at Carleton University in Canada, said "family honour" really meant male control over women.

"Violence against women is not a new phenomenon — it's always been there. It's

just that we are talking more about it now and working more against it."

Shadia Sarraj, head of the GCMHWP, said 98 per cent of the cases it deals with involve battered women.

"There are many reasons why men use violence against women, but in all cases we tackled there was no distinction between the poor or the rich, the educated or the ignorant — all beat women," Ms. Sarraj told Reuters.

There are also many cases of incest and only the woman — the victim — is punished, she said.

Ms. Sarraj and her team have been opening centres in refugee camps and elsewhere in the conservative, religious Gaza Strip, trying to inform women of their rights.

Some women seek refuge in Israeli shelters.

She and her colleagues have been attacked by mosque preachers and accused of encouraging corruption. They have received threats over the phone for rebelling against the old customs.

Ms. Abdo and other social workers in Gaza and the West Bank said that awareness among women led to

more reporting of violence, but there were still no shelters for battered women in Palestinian areas.

Some Palestinian women have sought refuge at Israeli shelters, but the risk of families seeking them out in order to kill them haunts those who manage to flee, said a social worker in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

"In Israel there are shelters, and there are laws, police and courts which take women's complaints seriously. In Gaza and the West Bank things are more problematic."

"There's a religious, conservative, tribal society and the absence of law," Ms. Abdo said.

Former Palestinian Prosecutor-General Khaled Kidra said police and courts took into consideration prevailing religious and social norms in setting sentences.

But he said most cases of honour killings and rapes do not even reach the courts.

"They are solved through social, tribal solutions," Prosecutor Kidra said, referring to the tradition of "suluh," by which family

notables mediate a settlement, usually in the form of financial compensation.



BETHLEHEM PROTEST: Palestinian youth, one wearing an army uniform, aim their slingshots at Israeli troops on the outskirts of Bethlehem Monday during a clash over the detention in Israeli prison of a Palestinian woman on hunger strike. Itaf Ayyan, a Palestinian woman linked to Islamic Jihad organisation and held in Israeli jail without trial since October, has been on a hunger strike in prison for the last three weeks and Palestinians say her condition is very serious. Israeli troops responded with teargas and fired rubber bullets (Reuters photo)

Palestinian who helped Israel kill Hamas bomb-maker sues Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Palestinian who helped Israel assassinate Yahya Ayyash in 1996 has filed a \$25 million suit against the Israeli secret service, Shin Bet, the Haaretz newspaper reported Monday.

Lawyers for Kamal Hamad filed the suit in a Tel Aviv district court, demanding the money as compensation for losses suffered when he was forced to flee his Gaza Strip home following Ayyash's assassination, the newspaper said.

Ayyash, nick-named the Engineer, built bombs used by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) for a spate of suicide attacks which killed dozens of Israelis in 1994 and 1995.

He was assassinated in January 1996 when a cellular telephone packed with explosives by presumed Shin Bet agents exploded in his face.

An investigation into the

assassination by Palestinian security concluded that Hamad gave the booby-trapped telephone to Ayyash via a mutual friend.

Palestinian police issued an arrest warrant for Hamad and seized his extensive property holdings in the Gaza Strip, but the suspect fled to Israel with members of his family.

According to Haaretz, Hamad has since been embroiled in disputes with Shin Bet over his compensation for the lost property and alleged Israeli promises to help him make a new life inside Israel.

The newspaper quoted Shin Bet sources saying the agency helped Hamad purchase 12 cement mixers and aided him in obtaining building contracts in Israel.

Hamad claims he only was able to purchase two cement trucks and did not receive other promised financial help, it said.

Iraqi troops take up 'offensive' positions in north — opposition

ANKARA (AFP) — Iraqi government forces deployed to the country's north have been placed in "offensive formations" amid clashes between rival Kurdish factions involving Turkish troops, an Iraqi opposition group said Monday.

"The Iraqi units that have been previously stationed near [the main Iraqi Kurdish city of] Erbil have been placed in offensive formations, but their objective is not clear," a London spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress (INC) said.

"The Baghdad troops may have been reacting to the deployment of Turkish

forces deep into Iraqi territory, or something else," he told Agence France Presse (AFP) by telephone. He said the Iraqi troops were backed by some 270 tanks in the area.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), a leading Iraqi Kurd group, retreated Monday to a former ceasefire line in northern Iraq following a major offensive by the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) backed by Turkish troops.

The INC said several Turkish tanks, out of some 250 operating in northern Iraq, Monday reached positions 20 kilometres north of Erbil, which is controlled by Ankara's allies, the KDP.

Israeli air force chief says no Iraqi Scud threat

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's air force chief, Major General Eitan Ben-Eliyahu, said Monday he was sure Iraq's latest confrontation with the United States would not prompt Baghdad to fire Scud missiles at Israel.

Iraq launched 39 missiles at Israeli cities during the 1991 Gulf war while a U.S.-led coalition ousted Iraq invasion forces from Kuwait.

Maj. Gen. Ben-Eliyahu said Iraq still had Scuds and launchers after nearly seven years of U.N. weapons inspections.

Asked if he estimated Iraq would fire Scuds at Israel while feuding with the U.S. over the inspections, Maj. Gen. Ben-Eliyahu told army radio:

"Certainly not." He did not say why he believed there was no threat.

During the Gulf war, Israelis, fearing the missiles would be armed with chemical warheads, donned gas masks and took shelter in sealed rooms whenever a warning siren sounded.

All the missiles fired were topped with conventional warheads. No Israelis were killed as a result of direct missile attacks.

Israeli authorities have been issuing new gas masks to the public in recent months to replace outdated ones. Traffic was sparse at one distribution point in central Israel on Sunday.

Kissinger: It's time for final status talks

Thomas O'Dwyer
The Jerusalem Post

FORMER U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said Sunday it is now time to tackle "a number of big issues" in the Middle East peace process — including the fact that a Palestinian state is inevitable.

Since universal recognition of that state is inevitable, "the question becomes what are its borders," Kissinger said, in a lecture to a packed auditorium in Tel Aviv's Habimah Theatre.

He said that although he had been the first to advocate the step-by-step process to the Arabs and Israelis, now he believes it is time for bigger steps, or for a negotiated final settlement.

"But the first, the essential, requirement for peace is knowing where you

want to go," Kissinger said.

"If you do not know the destination, you cannot get there and each step, each concession, becomes harder."

Kissinger had been invited by the Yitzhak Rabin Centre, to deliver the first Rabin Lecture, launching a programme of activities to honour the memory of the late prime minister, said Anita Shapira, chairman of the centre. His subject was "United States and Middle Eastern Policy in a Changing Global Arena."

Nobel Peace laureate Kissinger, who was secretary of state under presidents Nixon and Ford, became known as the father of shuttle diplomacy when he negotiated the ceasefire agreements between Israel, Egypt and Syria following the Yom Kippur war.

Kissinger said the current period of international quiet will not continue and, when it ends, it will not be easy to mobilise help for the Middle East from the United States.

"Even now in America there is isolationism on the left, unilateralism on the right. Thirty per cent of the country has never been outside it, news reports from the outside world are incomprehensible to them."

"I have argued ever since prime minister Begin agreed to the concept of autonomy that a Palestinian state was inevitable. Once the concept of autonomy had been granted, nothing would prevent the outside world from elevating the status of that autonomous unit."

"I told Begin on the day after Camp David, and have said it ever since, that the key question is what

borders will that unit have. These two issues must be faced — the borders, and in return, the recognition of a Palestinian state cannot be prevented, whatever Israel thinks."

Kissinger said "it is clear" Israel cannot return to the 1967 borders, "so without tying myself to any particular line, I think something like the Allon Plan will be the outcome."

"There are indeed a host of other issues — precise limitations for the Palestinian unit's arms; it cannot possibly be a constant source of worry."

"But we must be clear about the destination, and above all agree with the U.S. that that is the destination."

"This is the big decision that has to be made. One cannot possibly hope that there is a way around it."

Algerian agent claims government helped Iraq make weapons

LONDON (AP) — An Algerian intelligence agent who defected to Britain claims the Algerian government is hiding material for Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological warfare programme, the Observer newspaper reported Sunday.

The agent, identified only as "Yousouf-Joseph," was quoted as telling the paper that intelligence operatives from Algeria and Iraq are also collaborating to defeat United Nations sanctions on Iraq.

The Observer report, which provided no other details, could not be confirmed independently.

It was published as the U.N. Security Council prepared to meet Monday to decide how to force President Saddam Hussein to back down in a confrontation over U.N. inspections of Iraqi weapons sites. Iraq is refusing to allow American inspectors to be part of U.N. inspection teams and is threatening to shoot at U.S.-manned surveillance planes.

Mr. Yousouf also claimed that at least two bombings in Paris in the summer of 1995, which were blamed on Islamists, were actually the work of the Algerian secret service, the Observer said. Several people were killed in the bombings.

"They were part of a sophisticated black propaganda...war aimed at galvanising French public opinion against the Islamists," the paper said.

The agent, who came to Britain 2 1/2 years ago and

is seeking asylum, was also quoted as saying the ongoing massacres in Algeria are the work of secret police and army death squads.

An insurgency unleashed after the military-backed regime cancelled legislative elections in 1992 that the now banned Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win has left an estimated 75,000 people dead.

Mr. Yousouf was quoted as saying the armed Islamist group, or GIA, which has been blamed for

the massacres, "has been completely turned by the government" and is now controlled by the Algerian secret service.

Mr. Yousouf, who spent 14 years working as an agent, claimed that Algeria is run as a "private fiefdom" by two men, Mohammed Mediane, code-named Tawfik, who heads the Algerian secret service operations department, and General Smail Lamari, who heads its counter-espionage division, the Observer said.

The paper said the secret police involvement in the Algerian massacres is supported by a former diplomat, Mohammed Larbi Zitout, who was number two at the Algerian embassy in Libya before he defected to Britain.

Mr. Yousouf was also quoted as saying the killing of many foreigners, including a British oil worker and seven Italian seamen, was organised by the secret police, not Islamist extremists.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Sandokan
14:30 C.R.O.
15:00 Skippy
15:30 The Album Show
16:30 Square One T.V.
17:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 You Bet Your Life
20:00 Doc. — Skeleton Coast
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Hollywood Remembers
22:00 News in English
22:30 Margaret Volant
23:15 The Guilty

PRAYER TIMES

04:36 Fajr
05:56 (Sunrise) Duha
11:20 Dhuhur
14:18 Asr
16:43 Maghreb
18:03 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel.
661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366.
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.
Armenian International Church
Tel. 5516245.
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457.
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Holy Church
in Amman Tel. 811295.
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology
Relative cold weather conditions
will prevail with skies partly

cloudy. There will be a chance

of scattered showers and winds
easterly moderate to active. On
Wednesday, it will be sunny with
temperatures rising slightly. In
Aqaba, skies will be partly
cloudy, winds northerly moderate
to active and seas calm.

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 18, Aqaba 26 Humidity
readings: Amman 57 per
cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.

USEFUL
TELEPHONE
NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Mizalrah .820425
Dr. Wissam Hazyrin .748563
Dr. Munther Al Qasbi .779959
Dr. Hatim Hammam .837397
Ferdows pharmacy .778336
Al Asema pharmacy .637055
Al Salam pharmacy .636730
Yacoub pharmacy .644945

Shmeissani pharmacy .637660

Natroukh pharmacy .623672
Ghazi Taha .250088
IRIBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qam .281484
Al Quds pharmacy .—
ZARQA:
Dr. Ziyad Jghaitim .992991
Khalifeh pharmacy .985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .637111
Civil Defence Dept .661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue
— .630341
Civil Defence Emergency .199
Rescue Police 192, 621111,
637777
Fire Brigade .617101
Blood Bank .775121
Highway Police .343402
Traffic Police .896390
Public Security Department
— .60321
Hotel Complaints .605800
Price Complaints .661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints .897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints .787111
Telephone Information (direct-
ory assistance) .121
Overseas Calls .010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs .623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs
661101
Jordan Television .773111
Radio Jordan .774111
Water Authority .680100
Jordan Electricity Authority
— .815615
Electric Power Company
636381
RJ Flight Information
0853200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-
53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre
813813/32
Khalidi Maternity .642481/6
Aldileh Maternity .642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity
— .642362
Mathas, J. Amman .636140
Palestine, Shmeissani .607071
Shmeissani Hospital .669131
University Hospital .845845
Al-Mushar Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali .664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir .775111/26
Army, Marka .891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital

602240/50
Amal Hospital .674155
The Arab Centre for Heart
and Special Surgery .865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83333
Zarqa National Hospital
— (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital .09986732
Al HBkna Moderna Hospital
— (09)990990
IRIBID:
Princess Basma Hospital
— (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital
— (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital
— (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA
AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:15 Sanan (RJ)
07:25 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Abu Dhabi, Aqaba (RJ)
10:05 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:05 Beirut (RJ)
10:20 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:20 Cairo (RJ)

17:15 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:30 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
22:00 Paris (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

14:35 Istanbul (TK)
14:40 Munich (YP)
16:30 Rome (AZ)
16:45 Tunis, Damascus (add) (TU)
18:30 Dubai, Damascus (LY)
20:00 Tel Aviv (LY)
20:10 Beirut (ME)
20:40 Cairo (MS)
22:20 London (BA)
23:35 Amsterdam (KL)
23:35 Larnaca (CY)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

07:45 Aqaba (RW)
09:05 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
09:50 Amman (Marka Airport)
(RW)
17:20 Tel Aviv
(RW)
18:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:20 Aqaba (RW)
22:50 Amman (Marka Airport)
(RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:20 Beirut (RJ)
08:25 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

09:00 Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)

10:45 Aqaba, Paris (RJ)
11:25 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:15 Paris, London (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:45 Brussels (RJ)
19:30 Jeddah (RJ)
20:20 Larnaca (RJ)
20:40 Damascus (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights

02:25 Amsterdam
03:00 Athens (OJ)
15:40 Munich (YP)
15:45 Istanbul (TK)
17:30 Rome (AZ)
17:45 Tunis (add) (TU)
19:30 Dubai (EK)
21:20 Tel Aviv (LY)
21:40 Cairo (MS)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

06:45 Amman (Marka Airport)
(RW)
08:15 Aqaba (RW)
09:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
17:45 Amman (Marka Airport)
(RW)
17:55 Tel Aviv (RW)
20:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:50 Aqaba (RW)

Home

Japan gran
Planning,Princess S
rescent SCall issued
for charting
near sports
strategyM
E
A
h

WHAT

Japan grants \$3 million to family planning, women's project in Karak

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan has extended grant assistance totalling about \$3 million to the Integrated Family Planning and Women in Development Project in the Southern Ghor District in Karak governorate, according to a Japanese embassy press release Monday.

The project was inaugurated Monday under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma and the ceremony was attended by Japanese ambassador Takayuki Kimura, the statement read. One-third of this grant will be used to purchase equipment needed to implement this project and the rest will be used for training. In 1997, \$138,000 of the fund will be utilised to purchase equipment for project logistics as well as medical, vocational training, and IEC (information, education, and communication) equipment, according to the announcement.

This project is to be implemented as a project-type technical cooperation with a three-year duration. During the period of the project, five Japanese long-term experts in the fields of population, family planning and reproductive health, and women in development will serve as instructors with additional short-term experts. Ten Jordanians will be sent to Japan for further training, the statement continued. The project is being implemented by the



HRH Princess Basma Monday inaugurates the Integrated Family Planning and Women in Development project in Karak. Also present at the ceremony was Japanese Ambassador Takayuki Kimura (Petra photo)

National Population Commission, the Ministry of Health, and the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the statement read.

It is a pioneer project in Jordan, because it is based on an integrated approach to utilise the concept of women in development in addressing national population problems. It aims at improving living standards through the promotion of family planning in the Southern Ghor District, according to the press

release. The project aims at enhancing awareness of local communities, particularly women, of health and socio-economic conditions, strengthening family planning and reproductive health services at health facilities, increasing women's participation in economic activities, and strengthening cooperation among health and social service sectors, the statement said. In remarks at the ceremony, Mr. Kimura said, "Women represent half of society, and accordingly it

is important to develop projects that cater to their needs. I hope that this pilot project will offer great benefits to women in Karak governorate and will also reflect positively on other parts of the Kingdom once the lessons learned from it are applied there. I also hope that it will assist in improving living standards through family planning schemes," according to the announcement. This project is the fifth in a series of Project-Type Technical Cooperation from Japan, the statement concluded.

Court upholds not guilty ruling on journalists charged with slander

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation Sunday upheld a State Security Court ruling in July of this year to acquit two journalists on charges of lese-majesty.

Nahed Hattar, 37, and Abdullah Abu Ruman, 23, were both charged with slandering His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

Mr. Hattar was accused of distributing slanderous articles, while Mr. Abu Ruman was charged with verbal

slander. Both journalists pleaded not guilty to the charges in February of this year.

The charges against the two were attributed to articles they wrote during and after the unrest in August 1996, following a government decision to lift bread subsidies.

Some of these articles were published in weekly newspapers, while others were seized during a police raid at the journalists' office.

On July 16, the State Security Court ruled that

both journalists were innocent of the charges pressed against them.

During their trial, Mr. Hattar accused the prosecution of relying on probability and conclusion rather than solid evidence.

Mr. Abu Ruman charged that some of his statements were either missing or not included in his testimony.

In his closing argument, Military Prosecutor Ahmad Harran asked the court to impose the maximum sentence on the two journalists, charging that Mr. Hattar indirectly slandered the

King in his articles and had received payments from countries abroad.

Defence Attorney Faisal Batayneh told the Jordan Times that the two could still face a civil trial on charges of propagating material that undermines national unity and relations between Jordan and Palestine, sows sectarianism, and instigates violence, terror, and hatred.

"The prosecutors are still investigating these charges, and the case has not reached a civil court yet," Mr. Batayneh said.

Minister gives details of Jordan's agricultural progress to conference

ROME (Petra) — Jordan has made major strides over the past two decades towards attaining self-sufficiency in food production, despite meagre water resources and limited agricultural means, Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha said at a conference by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome.

According to Mr. Khreisha, in the past 20

years Jordan has realised a 200 per cent increase in vegetable production, 220 per cent in fruit, 200 per cent in red meat, 400 per cent in white meat, 350 per cent in milk, and 350 per cent in table eggs.

Despite the successes, Jordan has not yet achieved self-sufficiency in cereals, fodder, and red meat, according to the minister.

He said the Kingdom over the past two years has

begun implementing an agrarian reform programme designed to boost output and to export agricultural products to foreign markets.

Mr. Khreisha voiced appreciation of continued FAO endeavours to help developing nations increase their food production by providing expertise and information in agriculture-related matters. Despite the improvement

in the world food situation over the past two decades, nearly 20 per cent of the population in developing countries cannot obtain sufficient food, he said, adding that some 800 million people around the world suffer from malnutrition.

The conference is slated to discuss an FAO medium-range plan for the years 1998-2003.

Ministry agrees to abide by ruling suspending taxi licensing procedures

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Ministry of Interior officials Monday said they would abide by a court ruling to suspend taxi company licensing procedures introduced by the ministry in September, which were contested by taxi owners.

The ministry issued new regulations prohibiting taxi owners from selling their cars as public vehicles, a measure that most taxi owners claimed would depreciate the value of their vehicles.

The new regulations also stipulated a requirement of

JDI million capital and at least 75 operating cars for the establishment of an office in Amman. In other cities, the financial obligation and the number of operating vehicles were reduced.

The owners went to the Higher Court of Justice claiming that the licensing procedures would cause them tremendous financial losses.

The Higher Court of Justice issued a second ruling Saturday to suspend the new licensing procedures until the court issues a verdict in the case, because attorneys defending the taxi owners claimed that the

Ministry of Interior was not implementing the old procedures.

"We are abiding by the Supreme Court's ruling and respect its order and have not implemented any of the new licensing procedures awaiting the court's final ruling in the case," Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior Hashem Sabbagh said.

Dr. Sabbagh told the Jordan Times that the attorneys who are handling the case were claiming in court that "we were not abiding by the old laws, which is not true."

Government officials have insisted that the new regulations will not affect taxis

currently operating but "is a step to modernise transportation to meet the expected increase in the number of tourists who will visit the region within the next three years."

Further, the government said these new regulations will increase employment opportunities and create competition in the public transportation sector, which would improve transportation services in the Kingdom.

"We have submitted our evidence and purposes for issuing the new procedures and the final decisions is up to the court," Dr. Sabbagh said.

Princess Sarvath tours Red Crescent Society headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Sarvath, deputy honorary chairperson of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), Monday visited the society's head office and expressed her support for the nomination of a Jordanian to the post of president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

At a meeting with JNRCS President Mohammad Hadid, the Princess underlined the importance of this nomination, saying it will

have a beneficial effect on humanitarian activities in Jordan and the whole Arab World.

Dr. Hadid presented a briefing on JNRCS activities and plans and accompanied the Princess on a tour of the society's vocational training centre, which offers free training to local women in dress making, secretarial work, and sewing machine maintenance.

She also inspected the maternity ward of the JNRCS Hilal Hospital,

which was opened earlier this year, and the newly-refurbished paediatrics wing.

Dr. Hadid, who was nominated by Jordan to be the next federation president, has been serving as the federation's deputy president since 1993.

Voting on the appointment of a president is scheduled to take place in Spain during the federation's general assembly meeting scheduled for Nov. 21.

Officials review German assistance in water projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday attended a meeting to assess Germany's assistance to the Kingdom in implementing water projects.

At the meeting, which was attended by a team of German water specialists, the discussion focused mainly on a sewage project in the northern Irbid governorate, a water project in Wadi Mousa, and the replacement of water network within Amman.

Dr. Majali, who was accompanied on the visit by Deputy Prime Minister for Services and Minister of Administrative Development Abdullah Ensour, listened to a briefing by Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin on water projects in the Jordan Rift Valley.

He noted that the German government has expressed its readiness to finance a project to boost the water pumping capacity from the King Abdullah Canal in the Jordan Valley to Amman.

German Ambassador to Jordan Peter Mende Sunday signed an agreement with Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf-Humeidi on providing Jordan with a JD17.8 million soft loan to finance the construction of a water network project within Greater Amman.

Call issued for charting 5-year sports strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday called for charting a sports strategy for the next five years.

Speaking at a meeting attended by their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Ra'd and members of the Higher Preparatory Committee for the Ninth Pan-Arab Games, which will be held by Jordan in 2001, the Regent called for preparing working papers to discuss means of bringing to success the games.

He urged the participation of the concerned ministries, including the Ministry of Youth and Culture, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and the Jordan Armed Forces.

Man loses car but keeps tongue, lip after tribal ruling

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 28-year-old man from the city of Ma'an had his Mercedes 300 burnt Sunday for harassing a woman and her husband, but was spared his tongue and lip in a first-of-its-kind ruling by a tribal court.

According to sources in Ma'an, the man, a merchant identified only as A.A., was following a couple with his car and was trying to harass the woman.

"The woman's husband informed him that she was his wife, but the man did not believe him and kept following him," the source told the Jordan Times.

The husband then lured A.A. to his wife's family in Sateh, in the Ma'an

area, where A.A. was informed that their daughter was indeed married to the man with whom she was riding, the source maintained.

The relatives of the woman then headed to A.A.'s shop and destroyed it in revenge, the source said.

The source added that a tribal judge ruled that the family of the woman should take his car and that his tongue and lip be cropped by her family.

"The family spared the man's tongue and lip but decided to destroy his car," the source said, adding that the man had fled the village.

Muslim Brotherhood leader advises against alienating Hamas

AMMAN (J.T.) — The leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Abdul Majid Thuneibat, has said it would not be in Jordan's interest to alienate the political arm of Hamas movement, since the role of Hamas is becoming more familiar in the Palestinian arena and it represents a large sector of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Thuneibat, in an interview with the Arabic daily Al Arab Al Yawm, said a recent Israeli Mossad attempt to assassinate a Hamas leader in Amman has drawn a wide range of support from the Jordanian public to the group.

Mr. Thuneibat said the leadership of Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan are separate and "there is no

joint framework between both leaderships. Each has its own policies."

He elaborated by saying that the relationship between them is "not administrative, but rather one based on mutual advice."

As for the Muslim Brotherhood leadership in Palestine, he said they run their own administrative and financial matters.

He added that due to the current situation separating both leaderships, "the Brotherhood still believes that our Palestinian brothers are part of Jordan and we do not accede to the severance of legal and administrative ties."

He said the "Islamic movements" in the lands occupied since 1948 have

managed so far to maintain their Arab-Islamic identity.

Regarding establishing a dialogue or relations with Israeli parties, Mr. Thuneibat said there is no objection to meeting and talking to a Jew who is opposed to Israeli policies.

"We do not object to such a meeting, since we only oppose the current political structure, which focuses on assault, blackmail, and implementation of Jewish interests. We are seeking only to regain what was taken from the rightful owners."

"But if you were to ask me if I were against Jewish religion, my answer would be that Prophet Mohammad recommended favourable treatment to people of the Book (Christians and

Jews)."

He said establishing ties with a rabbi would be useless, however, since the dialogue would have a political shape or dimension.

On the Brotherhood's view on democracy, he said "we are all for democracy and it is part of our strategy."

He stated that the movement is a big supporter of women's rights and encourages women to assume leading roles, other than that of country leadership.

"We also support political pluralism within the context of Islamic law, providing that they [political groups] do not deny the existence or presence of God," Mr. Thuneibat said.

WHAT'S GOING ON	
FILM	LECTURE
* "Carry On (Again Doctor)" at the British Council, Jabel Amman at 6:00 p.m.	* Lecture on Behcet Disease by Dr. Wafa Madanat at the Orthodox Club, Abdoun at 7:00 p.m. (sponsored by Al-Ahlia School Alumni Club).
CONCERT	EXHIBITIONS
* Musical performance by the Quartet D'Archi Di Roma at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.	* Graphics and oil paintings by Mu'ayyad Al Adhuni at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Nov. 13.
CHARITY BAZAAR	
* Charity bazaar (held by the Queen Alia Foundation for Hearing and Speech) at the late Abdul Rahim Jardanah House, Jabel Amman, Mango Street (Tel. 819141), until Nov. 13.	* Bani Hamida full exhibition "Encounter" (displaying rugs designed by Japanese textile designer Tomoko Iyoda) at Bani Hamida House, Jabel Amman, until Nov. 25 (Tel. 658696/7).
	* Exhibition of wicker accessories from Wadi Rayan, handicrafts and gift items at the Jordan Rivers Designs showroom (Tel. 613081), until Nov. 23.
	* Works by Sa'ud Ibrahim entitled "The Soul Rest" at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 553098), until Nov. 11.
	* Works by Bahmani artist Sheikh Rashid Al Khalifa at Darat Al Fumun, Jabel Weibdeh, until Nov. 15. Also displaying a new collection of works by contemporary Arab artists (Tel. 643251/2).

Chief U.S. negotiator sees makings of global warming deal

TOKYO (AFP) — An international deal to cut greenhouse gas emissions is finally on the horizon, the U.S. chief negotiator in global warming talks said Monday.

"For the first time, I think I am beginning to see what the makings of a product are, what the makings of a Kyoto result are," said Timothy Wirth, U.S. undersecretary of state for global affairs, in a reference to an upcoming conference in the Japanese city.

"That is more positive than I think most people thought we would be at this point," he told reporters following two days of informal ministerial talks ahead of the Dec. 1 U.N. Kyoto conference on climate change.

"We want a binding agreement coming out of Kyoto," he added. Asked whether he was confident of reaching a binding agreement at Kyoto on cutting emissions, Mr. Wirth said he was but stressed that there were two sets of problems to be tackled — developed countries and developing nations.

The United States had been unfairly attacked for having a weak offer, the U.S. negotiator said.

Taking 1990 greenhouse gas emissions as a base, Europe is calling for a 15 per cent cut by 2010, Japan for a five per cent cut by 2008 to 2012 and the United States for no change by 2008 to 2012.

But each of the three offers has different bases — the United States says its proposal, for example, includes six "greenhouse gases" blamed for trapping the Earth's heat while Europe and Japan's include only three, he stressed.

"The United States has been beaten up by the Europeans because we are not virtuous enough,

because we don't have a high enough level of reduction, we are zero and they are 15," he said.

But the three proposals were based on "very different bases," Mr. Wirth said, expressing his frustration that people were not comparing like with like when taking the United States to task.

"The baselines in the minus 15, minus five and

zero are very different so the progress that was made Saturday and Sunday afternoon was a much clearer understanding of what has to be a baseline."

For example, the U.S. proposal comprised six greenhouse gases, including three that would have cut both the Japanese and European proposals by several percentage points had they been included, he said.

Mr. Wirth said the United States managed to explain more clearly its call for trading to be allowed in emission quotas, arguing that it would allow resources to spend more efficiently in cutting emissions.

It might be cheaper, for example, to cut one tonne's emissions from an outdated Chinese factory than it would be for an advanced U.S. plant to achieve the same result.

In this example, emission trading would allow the factory in China to cut its output through modernisation paid for by a U.S. factory — resulting in the same reduction of "greenhouse gas" output but for less money.

Mr. Wirth said he aimed to convince developing countries of the benefits they would reap from such trading, which could be monitored by the World Bank.

"We want to have in the treaty and acceptance of joint implementation (involving developing countries) and an acceptance of trading."

"This idea of flexible financial instruments is imperative to be in the treaty and we made huge progress with, we thought, with (developed) countries on what this was and what this was not. "We are making progress every day."

Mr. Wirth said participants had managed to get "over a hump" in understanding each others' targets but the participation of developing countries is "where the greatest effort has to be between now and a month from now."

The Tokyo talks were called at the last minute following a lack of results from two previous preparatory meetings in Bonn. Further negotiations are scheduled for Nov. 30, the eve of the meeting proper.

Dutch PM keeps greenhouse pressure on Australia

CANBERRA (R) — Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok has told Australia it has to carry its share of the global burden in reducing greenhouse gases, and it was essential to set binding gas emission targets in Kyoto next month.

Speaking at an Australian parliamentary dinner hosted by Prime Minister John Howard, who is an opponent of unilateral binding global greenhouse targets, Mr. Kok said economic growth should be stimulated in an environmentally friendly way.

"We need a better balance between economy and ecology," he told the dinner.

Mr. Kok had earlier Monday warned Mr. Howard in a meeting that Australia would have to pay an economic and ecological price if it stood by its opposition to binding greenhouse gas emission targets.

"It is essential that the climate conference in Kyoto next month will decide on new binding targets. I sincerely hope that all countries, including Australia, will carry their share of the burden," he told the dinner.

"We have to work together preserving our planet, and of course this will be a step-by-step process, but it is a responsibility, a common responsibility, for the sake of ourselves, our children and our grandchildren," Mr. Kok said.

Mr. Howard has consistently opposed unilateral binding targets for Australia, saying it would unfairly penalise the country's economy and lead to thousands of job losses. Australia is a major fossil fuel exporter.

Mr. Howard has said he would agree to compulsory reductions if they were fair to Australia, but preferred a policy of "differentiation" recognising each country's individual economic circumstances.

Australia, becoming increasingly isolated in its position, has faced criticism from the European Union which wants to cut emissions to 15 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010. Canberra has given a cautious welcome to a proposal by President Bill Clinton for emissions to be cut to 1990 levels by 2008-2012.

Emission reduction levels are due to be set at a climate change conference to be held in Kyoto, western Japan from Dec. 1-10.

Nigerian junta bans demos on anniversary of activists' hangings

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria's military junta banned any rallies or protests by ethnic Ogoni activists Monday's second anniversary of the highly controversial execution of nine of their leaders, press reports said.

Authorities in Gokana, the main town in the oil-rich Ogoni heartland in the southern Rivers State, warned that if civil servants failed to show up for work they would be sacked, while security measures were stepped up.

The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) had planned a whole week of demonstrations to culminate in rallies and prayer meetings, two years after writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other MOSOP leaders were executed following a trial by a special court on murder charges.

Last year, local authorities took strong measures throughout the state and imposed a curfew on its capital, Port Harcourt, on the first anniversary of the hangings, which led to an international outcry and the suspension of Nigeria from the Commonwealth.

Defence lawyers and human rights bodies had argued that the trial of the prominent writer, who headed MOSOP, and his colleagues was a trumped-up

affair to crush MOSOP and disruptive activities by members of the Ogoni community of some 500,000, who had strongly protested against what they saw as the plundering and destruction of their region by oil companies.

Sunday, a pro-government rally was mustered outside the offices of the Rivers State military governor, Colonel Musa Shehu, where speakers called on the federal government of General Sani Abacha to remain steadfast in the face of international pressure and criticism over its human rights record.

MOSOP, which was forced into virtual inertia by the executions, had planned to turn Monday into a "Liberation day" marked by public rallies and other events.

A demonstration by pro-democracy and human rights activists outside the Shell centre and the Nigerian High Commission in London, England, were also planned.

Another organisation, called the Chicco movement, launched recently and which claims to represent the aspirations of the communities in the Niger Delta region, seems to have taken over the struggle from MOSOP.

British authorities, which faulted the trial and conviction of the nine activists,

described their execution as "judicial murder."

The executions, which were carried out during the 1995 Commonwealth summit in Auckland, New Zealand, triggered Nigeria's suspension from the Commonwealth, which is still in force, while the European Union, the United States and Canada imposed sanctions including an arms embargo.

The exiled acting president of MOSOP, barrister Ledum Mitee, said in a recent interview that the second anniversary was an opportunity to "rededicate ourselves to those ideals and goals to ensure that they (Ken Saro-Wiwa and his colleagues) did not die in vain."

Mr. Abacha's junta, which took power in 1993 ousting a short-lived unelected civilian government, has sought to present its international opprobrium as unjustified. It is pledged to hand over to a democratically-elected regime on Oct. 1 next year.

It has also sought to win back friends on the international stage by military and diplomatic action to restore the toppled civilian president of Sierra Leone, acting in the name of the Economic Community of West African States. Junta leaders in Freetown are now due to hand back power next April.

Thai elephant rally raised \$18,000

BANGKOK (AFP) — A weekend car rally through eastern Thailand aimed at raising cash for sick elephants, including pachyderms knocked over by cars, raked in more than \$18,000, organisers said Monday.

"The first rally of its kind ended successfully with at least 700,000 baht (\$18,900) being raised for the fund for elephants," Suwit Yodmani, the chairman of the first international rally for Thai elephants told AFP.

for medical treatment for elephants who suffer all kinds of sicknesses," he added.

More than 100 cars joined the motor rally from Bangkok to the eastern seaside town of Rayong at the weekend, including diplomats from Spain and Indonesia as well as businessmen from the United States and Sweden, he said.

The drivers used trunk roads linking the capital with the eastern coast to complete the inaugural two-day excursion.

Mr. Suwit said his organisation would stage the event

every year as the first had been successful and fun and while raising badly-needed funds to help elephants here.

The cash will go to the Asian Elephant Foundation of Thailand which cares for some 400 to 500 jumbo patients each year.

The foundation arranges regular medical checkups for outsize patients from across the country and also undertakes emergency care for the 100 or so pachyderms which are hurt in car crashes here or fall ill each year.

Shevardnadze calls for end to executions in Georgia

TBILISI (AFP) — Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze called Monday for an end to executions in the former Soviet republic, thereby meeting a key condition for membership of the Council of Europe.

"I have put before parliament a draft law on removing the death penalty from Georgia's laws," he said in a radio address.

Georgia has observer status at the Council of Europe, a human rights and democracy watchdog.

Mr. Shevardnadze also proposed amnesty for 958 convicts and 4,420 people under investigation. An official at the judge's office said the amnesty would concern only women, elderly and people jailed for non-violent crimes.

Fifty people were executed in 1996 and the first five months of this year. The most recent execution was in May.

Another 53 people are currently on death row, including eight supporters of the former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who fought a rebellion against Mr. Shevardnadze.

He promised to promote growth, fight inflation and cut the budget deficit — goals especially stressed by Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz of the pro-Business Freedom Union.

Mr. Buzek said he would push ahead with rapid privatisation, handing back property once seized by the Communists, and reforming the pension and health care systems.

He undertook to reform the law on identifying past



New Polish Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek addresses the parliament in Warsaw (AFP photo)

New Polish premier vows to finish reforms

WARSAW (R) — New Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek pledged Monday that his Solidarity-led government would finish the task of healing Poland, begun with the fall of Communism in 1989.

"Today, having learned painful lessons, we want to make up for lost time and do that which was not done right after 1989," Mr. Buzek said in his keynote opening policy speech to parliament.

Earlier, chiefs of Mr. Buzek's right-leaning Solidarity bloc and the smaller Liberal Freedom Union, both rooted in the 1980s anti-Communist struggle, signed a coalition deal on policy and posts for their four-year term.

"The year 1989 was the beginning of the end of Communism in Poland. I will do everything so that 1997 will be remembered as the year when we began to repair the country and made a final break with a bad past," said Mr. Buzek.

The victory of veterans of the old Solidarity movement in September elections marks a comeback after four years in which ex-Communist Social Democrats held power with a Peasant Party.

Mr. Buzek, 57, attacked their record. He recognised that economic growth had continued and inflation fallen — if too slowly — but said vital industrial and social security reforms had been neglected and the foreign trade deficit had swelled.

He promised to promote growth, fight inflation and cut the budget deficit — goals especially stressed by Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz of the pro-Business Freedom Union.

Mr. Buzek said he would push ahead with rapid privatisation, handing back property once seized by the Communists, and reforming the pension and health care systems.

He undertook to reform the law on identifying past

collaborators with the Communist-era security police, and to grant citizens access to their files.

His foreign policy targets reflected consistent Polish priorities of seeking fast entry first to NATO and then, while preserving the national identity, to the European Union.

He voiced strong support for continued U.S. engagement in European affairs, and stressed the importance of links with Germany, France and ex-Soviet neighbours to the east. Poland's armed forces, he said, would be modernised and slimmed down.

Mr. Buzek, whose government faces a swelling hunger protest by anarchists demanding higher pay, vowed swiftly to reorganise the health service and purchase vital equipment.

After debate later in the day, parliament was due to vote (1830 GMT) on a confidence motion, which each new cabinet must undergo to become fully entrenched in office.

The ex-Communists greeted the speech with stony silence and were set to vote against the government.

"The speech contained many sensible goals, but the explanation of how to achieve them was foggy," their leader Jozef Oleksy told Reuters.

President Aleksander Kwasniewski, also an ex-Communist, offered to cooperate with the government on important tasks but also questioned how some of the goals would be paid for.

"I am a bit sorry that the premier spoke only in one phrase of sacrifices... because this programme cannot be realised so easily," said Mr. Kwasniewski, who said it was the most highly politicised opening speech since 1989.

"There was no talk of the costs that will have to be borne," Mr. Kwasniewski told a news conference.

Socialist International pledges to defend workers

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The Socialist International began its first conference in India Monday by pledging not to allow workers to become the "cannon fodder" of globalisation.

Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral launched the two-day meeting here by arguing that the drive towards greater world trade should not come at the expense of employees.

"We have to collectively ensure that our human resources are not used as cannon fodder for the priorities of the more prosperous," he said.

"Only thus will globalisation be equitable and just."

He told the conference of the Socialist International council, which groups 139 left-wing parties from about 120 countries, that developing countries should also not be forgotten.

Mr. Gujral, whose Janata Dal party joined the Socialist International in 1996 and heads India's coalition government, said they needed "better terms of trade and market access, a greater inflow of resources... and support in sectors such as telecoms and intellectual property rights."

"Liberalisation and globalisation cannot be a one-way street."

He underlined socialism's continuing relevance, saying: "Today there are as many as 40 important countries where socialists are in power."

The conference was also addressed by former French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, president of the body. Mr. Mauroy said the movement had to respond to change.

"The collapse of the over-

concentrated Soviet economy shows it was not right," he said. "But we have a fight unrestricted economic globalisation if it means riches for some and poverty for many."

Mr. Mauroy said human rights had to be addressed by the international community.

"Human rights abuse is not a Western invention. There are people around the world who live without press freedom and freedom of expression. Many are imprisoned, tortured or have to live in exile."

"Our brothers in Burma and Malaysia are fighting a difficult battle while in Indonesia and especially Timor they are struggling to free themselves from an insidious and despicable oppression."

"There is a famine in the Korean Peninsula due to the total failure of a totalitarian regime."

Mr. Mauroy singled out China as the biggest paradox.

"We feel there has been an improvement in the standard of living, a slight loosening of controls and a great economic leap, including the successful and peaceful handover of Hong Kong."

"But the problem of human rights remains in China. We would like China to sign the U.N. Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights."

The conference is being attended by former prime ministers Tomiichi Murayama of Japan, Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway and Sher Bahadur Deuba of Nepal.

Officials said the conference, first held in Asia in 1994 in Tokyo, would also discuss global security.

Rebels shoot down Sri Lankan helicopter

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil Tiger rebels shot down a Sri Lankan Air Force Mi24 helicopter gunship in the northeast of the Indian Ocean Island Monday, air force officials said.

They said the gunship was escorting three helicopters carrying troops when it was attacked by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) near Kokkilai on the northeastern coast, some 260 km from the capital Colombo.

Air force officials said the helicopters were flying from the eastern port town of Trincomalee to a military camp at elephant pass, a causeway connecting the mainland with the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

They said the gunship was carrying a crew of four when it was attacked by the rebels and crashed into a lagoon near Kokkilai. Three crew members have been rescued but the fourth is still trapped in the helicopter.

"Navy boats have picked up one pilot and two gunners of the helicopter but another pilot is trapped in the wreckage, which is visible," a senior air force

official in Colombo told Reuters. The condition of the trapped pilot was not immediately known.

He said the helicopter had caught fire before crashing but it was not immediately clear whether the gunship had been hit by a missile.

LTTE rebels fired a missile from a boat at three air force Mi17 helicopters last month off the northeastern Mullaitivu Coast, an area under guerrilla control.

But the pilot of the lead helicopter had activated the anti-missile system, deflecting the missile, the military said. No damage or casualty was reported.

In March another air force Mi24 gunship went missing with two crew members, also off the Mullaitivu Coast.

Mi24s are part of the air force's attack fleet used in the war against the LTTE, who are fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east.

The government says more than 50,000 people have perished in the war that started in 1983. The LTTE say the toll is higher.

Exercise may fatally rupture heart patients' plaque

ORLANDO (R) — Sudden strenuous exercise can bring on a heart attack in people with blocked arteries and researchers said Sunday they had finally found out why.

The fatty plaque that blocks the arteries of some people with heart disease is more delicate and liable to rupture, they said. Bits of the plaque then block the arteries leading to the heart, causing a heart attack.

They said their findings meant men with high cholesterol and other evidence of heart disease who do not

regularly exercise should be careful about doing anything strenuous — even mowing the lawn.

"It has been known that sudden exercise does cause heart attack, but we have never known what causes that heart attack," Dr. Renu Virmani of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington told the annual meeting of the American Heart Association.

Dr. Virmani said linking plaque rupture to heart attacks in people with serious heart disease who exercised suddenly is "some-

thing new, a little step forward."

Dr. Virmani and colleagues studied 146 sedentary men, mostly in their 50s, who had high cholesterol and heart disease. They found that those who died during exercise or strenuous activity were more than three times as likely to have evidence of ruptured plaque than men who died during normal daily activities or while resting.

The plaque burst in 68 per cent of the men who died while engaged in strenuous activity com-

pared with 21 per cent of men who died during normal daily activities.

"We have found physical differences in the coronary arteries," she said.

She said the men who were doing exercise such as mowing the lawn, heavy lifting, playing basketball and having sex had more vulnerable plaque. Their plaque was covered with a thin, fibrous cap filled with immune system cells known as macrophages.

Dr. Virmani said men with coronary heart disease and high cholesterol should be careful about undertak-

ing vigorous physical activity and should try to lower their cholesterol through diet or drugs before beginning any type of exercise programme.

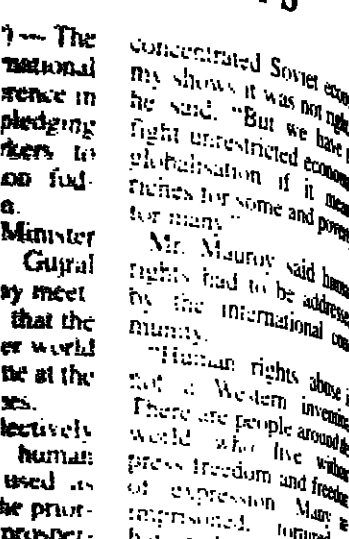
"We should not exercise them and should not tell them suddenly to go start exercising," Dr. Virmani told reporters. "We should actually tell them to lower their cholesterol."

Plaque is the gradual fatty buildup of substances inside the walls of arteries which reduces blood flow. It can break off or "bleed" into the blood, triggering a heart attack or stroke.

Gandhi m
probe thr
Indian co

Extra capacity to

st
tional pledges
nd workers



"Our brothers in Bangladesh and Malaysia are fighting a difficult battle while we Indians are enjoying a golden time. They are struggling to free themselves from a medieval and despotic oppression."

istry spokesman Tang Qiaojing quoted Mr. Jiang as saying: "Yeltsin is an old friend, every time we meet it is happy and intimate."

The two men were scheduled to have dinner together later Monday.

Mr. Jiang brushed up on his English before leaving for the United States, and tried to reach out to ordinary Americans by dancing the hula in Hawaii and taking a dip in the sea on Waikiki beach.

But he never appeared to connect with Mr. Clinton.

The Sino-U.S. summit was a triumph for Mr. Jiang in his bid to bolster his domestic standing, but fell short of forging a kinship between leaders of the world's only superpower and a rising Asian giant.

Mr. Yeltsin praised Mr. Jiang for his command of Russian, which he picked up during a stint at Moscow's Stalin Automobile Works in 1955-56.

"My friend Jiang Zemin speaks and understands Russian well," Mr. Yeltsin said.

The relationship between Mr. Jiang and Mr. Yeltsin has helped thaw once-frigid ties between Moscow and Beijing that reached a low point in the 1960s as they battled for dominance in the Communist world.

Monday, the two signed a declaration that settles a dispute over border demarcation that has bedevilled ties between their nations for hundreds of years.

Earlier this month, Mr. Yeltsin worked at putting his personal stamp on ties with Japan, fishing with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at informal talks in Siberia.

Australia PM warned Aboriginals have strong support

CANBERRA (R) — An Australian aboriginal leader warned Prime Minister John Howard Monday not to underestimate support for indigenous land rights.

"Let's go to an election. let's test the mood of the nation. I know that there is quite a lot of support around the country and while I know that our vote doesn't count for much.

The government needs the support of one non-government parliamentarian to pass any legislation in the senate, which puts the fate of the bill in the hands of independent Brian Har-

The warning from former aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Chairwoman Lois O'Donoghue came as the Upper House of Parliament, the senate, prepared for heated debate on Mr. Howard's land rights legislation later this month.

Under Australia's constitution, the government can dissolve both houses of parliament and call an early election — known as a double dissolution election — if the senate twice rejects the same piece of

Mr. Harradine has not revealed how he is likely to vote on the bill, but aboriginal leaders said last week they were confident of his support.

Despite increasing community pressure, Mr. Howard has vowed not to back down on the legislation, which is aimed at ending a bitter land rights row between farmers and Aborigines but which critics say restricts the rights of the country's indigenous

Ms. O'Donoghue said she hoped the conservative liberal-national coalition government would rethink its threat of an early election.

"I think it is a pity that we should go to a double dissolution on a matter of

right mind and the right heart to support the aboriginal people." Northern Lands Council Chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu said. Native title was first recognised in law in 1994 when Australia's high court ruled Australia was not an empty land (*terra nullius*).

The prime minister said last week he was even prepared to dissolve parliament and hold an election on the land rights issue if the senate refused to pass the bill.

"No doubt there's a big people's movement out there who in fact will rally behind our cause," Ms. O'Donoghue told Australian Broadcasting Corp. Radio.

But it faces a tough battle in the senate, where debate is scheduled to start on Nov. 24.

A further ruling followed in December 1996 that native title rights could co-exist with farmers' rights on land leased from the government.

Legal experts have said Mr. Howard's legislation severely limits native title rights on pastoral leases, effectively wiping out a substantial portion of those rights.

Cohen moves to cut Pentagon bureaucracy, save money

The official said there were 10 hot spots Saturday located

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary William Cohen has approved a plan to cut 28,000 jobs from the U.S. military's civilian bureaucracy and put thousands of others up for bid to save billions of dollars for new arms, a senior Pentagon official said Monday.

the political fallout from four previous rounds of closures. Vice President Al Gore planned to visit the Pentagon Monday to take part with Mr. Cohen in announcing the proposals, first reported by the Washington Post in Monday's newspaper.

resulting in the elimination of two of 11 assistant secretary positions and the slashing of some 28,000 out of 141,000 civilian jobs in the targeted organisations.

Among the groups affected would be the secretariats for policy, acquisition, finance, personnel and intelligence, as

However, in Malaysia, the air was mostly clear Monday thanks to rain and a change in wind direction, the government's Department of Environment said, and Singapore enjoyed some of its longest spells of blue sky in weeks.

Satellite pictures Sunday showed the pall of smoke from Sumatra drifting out into the Indian Ocean as winds blew from east to west, away from Singapore and Malaysia.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said Mr. Cohen would announce later Monday a one-third cut in his 3,000-member office staff alone in a sweeping plan that could slash 28,000 of the 141,000 civilian jobs in targeted defence organisations worldwide.

Up to 120,000 other jobs would be put up for bids between private agencies and the government under the plan, much of which requires congressional approval.

ongoing reassessment of defence manpower and resources that began last spring with the Quadrennial Defence Review. The "QDR" produced only modest cuts in troops and military units and preserved all major arms procurement programmes.

The new steps, most of which would have to be approved by Congress, are controversial because they affect jobs. About 23,000 people alone go to work daily at the Pentagon, sprawling

The Post reported that Mr. Cohen also wanted to consolidate three defence agencies into a single new one for monitoring compliance with treaties and managing programmes aimed at controlling the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

In addition to the job changes, Mr. Cohen also had decided on measures to

The Australian embassy said Monday the Australian government had committed an initial \$2 million in assistance to Indonesia to deal with the forest fires.

"The Australian contribution, provided through AUSAID, the government's overseas aid agency, has supported the mobilisation of three Australian expert teams in aerial water-bombing, fire management and health assessment," the embassy said in a statement.

Mr. Cohen will again press Congress for two more rounds of domestic military base closings and to support the job cuts and changes in business practices that could save \$6 billion a year, the official told Reuters.

There was no immediate estimate on how much the jobs cuts and business changes alone would save, but the same base closing request earlier this year was rejected by Congress, whose members are still suffering

Virginia headquarters of the U.S. military on the banks of the Potomac River outside Washington.

Mr. Cohen is seeking to open 120,000 civilian jobs in areas such as janitorial services, personnel, payroll and other areas to competitive bidding between the government and private firms over the coming four years, the official said.

Under the plan, numerous offices would be shuffled into new alignments with others,

The official confirmed that Mr. Cohen's plan would expand the Pentagon's use of computers, boosting purchasing through electronic catalogues and seeking achievement within three years of entirely paper-free contracting for all major weapon systems. "We want to go as paperless as possible," the official said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1974
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

Finding a genuine solution

THE FACT that Washington insists on having its own nationals serving as part of the U.N. inspection unit that is investigating Iraq's compliance with the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions suggests that the American agenda goes beyond inspection as such. Otherwise, President Bill Clinton would not have made an issue of the U.S. presence on Iraqi soil. Also the fact that only London is lending visible support to Washington on the U.N. standoff with Baghdad refutes the proposition that there is consensus within the international community on how to deal with Iraq. In fact, the contrary may be true. There seems to be a wide and growing consensus against Washington's and London's joint crusade to force Iraq to submit to their dictates.

If we are to judge from the list of demands that Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz submitted to the Security Council, it appears that Iraq is seeking to enter into serious negotiations with the council over the ending of sanctions imposed against it since 1990.

Iraq and its people have endured seven years of biting sanctions that have gravely affected the country on many fronts. Reports and evidence of starving and dying Iraqi children call for a review of the whole regime of measures imposed. To blame the Iraqi regime alone for the hardships that the people endure is faking the facts to say the least.

While we endorse the effort by the Security Council to verify if illegal weapons of mass destruction exist in Iraq, and at the same time suggest that a similar probe is launched in Israel, we think that Baghdad's demand that the number of experts coming from the permanent member states of the Security Council are balanced is only fair. If the U.S. is not really targeting Iraq and spying on it as Baghdad claims, then Washington should entrust its fellow council members to do the job.

But more importantly, however, the U.S. and the other council members should start a serious dialogue with Iraq with the intention of reaching a new arrangement with Baghdad as far as its armament is concerned and to find a genuine solution to the plight of the Iraqi people, who have already paid a very heavy price.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR'S Hisham Sharabi, who is a professor of history at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., addressed the U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq since 1990 quoting figures provided by U.N. agencies on the consequences of these punitive measures on the Iraqi people. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said Dr. Sharabi, the number of Iraqis who died as a direct result of the sanctions exceeded one million, of whom 567,000 were children. He said the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and FAO announced in April 1997 that three million Iraqi children suffer from malnutrition and from chronic diseases resulting from the lack of food and medicine. Thus the number of Iraqi children who died of starvation exceeds the number of victims who died in Japan when the U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Japanese cities during World War II, Dr. Sharabi said. By encouraging the continuation of the sanctions on Iraq, he said, the U.S., which is mainly responsible for the imposition of the embargo, has become the sole nation to use weapons of mass destruction — atomic bombs — and the weapon of mass starvation as a tool to implement its foreign policy.

AL RA'I daily attributed the failure of the latest U.S. sponsored Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in the state of Virginia to lack of will on the part of Washington to force Israel to respect the Oslo accords. The paper said the U.S. has proved impotent in forcing Israel to implement the accord or even to respect the principles laid by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to end the deadlock. It said Albright's principles as formulated last September included: security cooperation, redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank, freezing of Jewish settlement programmes and commencement of final status negotiations. In light of the latest Israeli-Palestinian talks, one can only assume that Washington is not playing the role of partner or even mediator in the peace-making process and is showing indifference to Israel's intransigent position, said the paper. It said Israel which is showing disregard to the Oslo accord is not likely to show any respect to future accords it might conclude with Lebanon or Syria, thus rendering the idea of comprehensive peace out of reach in the foreseeable future.

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

Parliament, elections, the state and the birth of Arab politics

THE RESULT of last week's general elections for Jordan's 13th Parliament were not very surprising. Almost all results conformed to the pre-vote expectations: voter turnout was only slightly lower than previous elections, at 56 per cent of registered voters and 46 per cent of all eligible voters. About seven independent Islamists and eight leftists won seats, with the vast majority of the rest of the 80-member Lower House of Parliament seats going to centrist-tribalist candidates. None of the 17 women was elected, though some (Toujan Feisal and Emily Naffaa) secured between two and five thousand votes each, which was considerably more than most male candidates in the country.

The significance of this election campaign and the voting process highlighted political controversies that have defined Jordan and many other Arab countries in recent years. Two basic issues are at hand: the relevance of the political institutions concerned, and the degree of trust between the state and its citizenry. On both counts, the results are inconclusive, but not unimportant, they tell us mainly that electoral parliamentary life is not the place to look for answers to these important questions, and that we should look elsewhere.

The formal results of the voting produced a parliament whose make-up rather accurately reflects Jordanian society, in my view. The tribal conservative, patriarchal, politically compliant, tightly ideologically pluralistic, and logistically chaotic nature of Arab and Jordanian society was fully reflected in the election process. Had the leftist-Islamist forces not boycotted the election, we probably would have had only a handful more opposition deputies, for the state and its centrist-tribalist allies would have electorally fought the opposition with much more vigour, leading to similar results.

The boycott, as such, did not represent an unusual or exceptional aspect of Jordanian politics, but rather confirmed the broadly dysfunctional or even non-existent nature of domestic politics. The elections confirmed the astoundingly apolitical or non-political nature of Arab society — in the sense that, even though we have formal political institutions and men and women who can be called political personalities, we do not yet have a true political system on which organised public groupings of citizens compete for and ultimately wield public power through mechanisms based in the "polis" — the urban context in which governance was administered in ancient Greece. Parliament is not yet a sufficiently powerful or credible institution in the context of true political power, which rests elsewhere in Jordanian and Arab

society. So, it becomes easy to boycott parliament, for the business of governance and political contestation will go on in the country without any significant changes.

The opposition boycott did not make much of a difference to the final results, and neither did the many embarrassing gaps in the electoral procedures. The state and government managed a perplexing process that saw the issuance and then the confiscation of tens of thousands of illegitimate voting cards, and recurring problems faced by people who could not vote because their voting cards had been illegally picked up on their behalf by candidates. For the state to say that any irregularities or cheating was the work of candidates and their supporters, and not of the state itself, is probably true. I personally do not think that the state deliberately or overtly cheated in favour of this or that candidate. But this is not the real problem, and the state stands on moral and political thin ice when it states that any illegal actions were the work of candidates and not of the state itself. The real very serious problem is the state's inability to manage a tight electoral process that prevents cheating by private interests, combined with the distorted nature and size of the electoral districts that result in unequal representation of the citizenry. This is a huge political and institutional shortcoming, with enormous implications.

We have already seen one aspect of these implications, in the form of the widespread lack of enthusiasm among many voters who were not necessarily implementing the formal opposition boycott. Those who boycotted were, in fact, participating in the political process in an odd, negative way, but a very common way in Arab and Middle Eastern culture (notice, for example, the equally strange behaviour of Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, who spends half his time awake and probably much of his dreaming time boycotting his own prime minister). Those who boycotted sought to engage in the political system, not to leave it altogether. The other Jordanians who did not vote are the more important indicators that we should study and understand. Among the dozens of people from all walks of life whom I questioned in the week before the elections, the vast majority — well over half — said they were not voting because they did not think that parliamentary elections or parliament made any difference to their current or future well-being. This is a most serious problem that is closer to alienation than to mere apathy.

Jordanians' thirst for political participation has been amply confirmed in recent years in electoral and other

processes, but the existing political institutions, such as parliament and political parties, have not yet responded in a credible manner to the citizenry's need to share in decision-making and to feel that its views have an impact on national policy-making. The experience of several elections since 1989 suggests that parliament will not in the foreseeable future emerge as the centre of gravity of political life in Jordan (as it has not emerged in any other Arab country, either).

I would guess that with the declining credibility of the Islamists, the leftists, and parliamentary-oriented political parties in general, and the curtailed nature of the press due to the impact of the temporary press law now in force, we must look elsewhere for signs of the birth of politics in Jordan.

The professional associations (doctors, lawyers, engineers, and others) may now re-emerge as focal points of political activism in Jordan — unless they, too, are constrained by new laws that prohibit them from engaging in political activity. Another possibility is the birth of non-governmental organisations, especially women's groups, that focus on political action, pluralism and democracy. A third possibility is for the appointed Upper House of Parliament, the Senate, to expand its representational scope and thus to play a more dynamic and public political role in future.

We will have to wait and see how Jordanian society responds to the powerful lessons of the last few years and of this parliamentary election. The macro process of politics in Jordan and the Arab World, rather than the micro make-up of Parliament, is the real story that we must follow. The most recent evidence before us today suggests that Arab civic and ideological life based on parliamentary-oriented political parties exhibits low levels of credibility and excitement, for it has become institutionalised as yet another dimension of the modern Arab bureaucratic security state. The birth of the Arab state is well attested and celebrated; the birth of Arab politics remains to be experienced and enjoyed. Jordan's importance continues to stem from the fact that it is one of the few places in the Arab World where this process of orderly, sustained political transformation continues to take place. Both state and citizenry are still deeply engaged in defining political institutions that enjoy both credibility and efficacy among the citizenry and the power structure. The elections last week suggest that this process is very much alive, but that its centre of gravity has now shifted outside of parliament, to places as yet imprecise.

M. KAHIL



'Further aggression on Iraq is simply unacceptable'

By Fahed Fanek

WHEN THE U.N. Security Council passed its resolution imposing sanctions on Iraq, after a war launched and spearheaded by the U.S. under the necessary political umbrella of the Gulf states, Syria and Egypt, it seemed then that the sanctions would not last for more than a few months. A short period of sanctions must have been the expectation of most of the parties involved in the U.N. resolution which has sustained the sanctions on Iraq for the last seven years. Apparently, it is that expectation, still on the minds of the parties involved, that prompted the council to hold regular reviews on the implementation of the resolution every two months rather than six months.

Regrettably, despite all the achievements of the successive U.N. inspection committees during seven consecutive years; the question on hand today is whether to impose more sanctions on Iraq, propagandising the declared goal as being to force Iraq into full compliance with all Security Council resolutions and implicitly to remove the regime of Saddam Hussein from power, when certainly the real objective is to control and confiscate

Arab oil and protect Israel from any chance of a power balance in the Middle East.

Today, the U.S. is threatening to attack Iraq yet another time; but contrary to its prior irrational and hasty actions in dealing with the Iraqi situation, the U.S. is giving the U.N. a chance to resolve the current crisis through diplomatic means. Maybe the U.S. is masterminding more powerful and intense strike(s) against Iraq or perhaps it is just taking the pulse of the Arab public and testing official standings on any new possible assault on Iraq while keeping in mind the forthcoming economic conference scheduled to convene in Doha next week.

With the exception of tight-lipped contacts, if any, the U.S. has not asked any Arab state bordering Iraq to allow U.S. forces to use its bases or airspace to facilitate a new attack on Iraq, apparently because the Washington already knows that the answer will be negative. In fact there is not any one Arab leader left who dares to allow the U.S. to use his country to launch a new offensive on Iraq for the simple reason that 40 per cent of the U.N. inspection teams are made up of U.S. representatives.

The Arab Muslim states are today, more than ever, responsible and obligated to raise a hue and cry against any new American aggression on Iraq, because in defiance of any present pan-Arab or Muslim differences it is just not acceptable to allow the United States of America to shed any more Arab blood.

If the U.S. indeed used its force against Iraq once more, the attack should be regarded as a full scale war directed at all Arab states with no regard to borders; stopping such aggression is unquestionably not enough, the whole unjust genocide — genocide is always unjust — that the U.S. is inflicting on Iraq's innocent people must be stopped now.

Superficially, the conflict seems to be between Iraq and the U.N., when truly it is between the U.S. and Iraq. The U.S. would never have imposed such cruel, vicious and unjust sanctions on any European nation or people; this war against Iraq is a war aimed at the Arab's integrity and self-esteem and is a real genocide against Iraqis: it is a war of gaining control over the Arabs' oil, their future and destiny.

LETTERS

Politics vs. anti-hate

To the Editor:

I ALWAYS find your paper most stimulating. In comment on Mr. Zogby's article on anti-Arab hate crime (Jordan Times, Nov. 5, 1997), I would like to state the difficulty caused by having the Arab/Muslim anti-discrimination organisations working actively and openly against Israel and Zionism. While I absolutely support the effort to fight ethnic or religious discrimination (especially since my religious beliefs are quite conservative), once anti-Israel rhetoric and action becomes these organisations' focus, they lose their moral credibility, and become just a civilised wing of Fateh or Hamas — and of course become unacceptable to any supporter of Israel.

Please keep the political wing separate from the anti-hate groups.

Saul Z. Newman
Los Angeles, California
USA.

Where to draw the line?

To the Editor:

I FIND that many times you casually throw articles in your paper that are blatantly offensive to the Christian community. In the article, "History says the Palestinians are the original inhabitants of Palestine," (Jordan Times, Nov. 10, 1997), by Pascal Karmy, his basic thesis is historically correct. But when he makes a statement like "This belief arises from the wrong interpretation of the Old Testament of the Bible which is in fact a mixture of legend, history, mythology," one wonders what his point is, and what are his facts to back up such an accusation. I wonder if the esteemed editors of the Jordan Times would be so bold as to throw a statement like that in their paper concerning the Holy Koran, if someone should write it.

Everything that Mr. Karmy mentions in his article is generally correct, and it is interesting to note that the basis of most of his information up until the year 70 BC is, in fact, the Old Testament. From whence, then, his statement that much of it is "a mixture of legend, history, and mythology"? I would ask Mr. Karmy to us what precisely is legend and myth and to give supporting facts. When it is convenient to support his thesis, he has no problem in using the factual history of the Old Testament. Mr. Karmy does leave out any "spiritual" element in his whole thesis. That God did "Bless Israel" to enter Palestine is agreed upon by both the Old Testament and the Holy Koran. The Old Testament also mentions in detail who was in the land and precisely where they lived. The debate, perhaps, is not so much who was or was not there, but if present day Israel has any "divine right" to Palestine. Christian theologians are divided on this issue, regardless of all the noise many Christians in the West make.

Bob Robertson
Amman

Feature

Striving for country's

Stay

Take Fast

state litics

existing political institutions, such as the parliament, have not yet responded to the citizenry's need to change and to feel that its views have a say in policy-making. The experience since 1989 suggests that parliament is not a viable future as the country's citizens are not engaged in the process.

With the declining credibility of the parliament and the current nature of its impact on the country, it is not enough to look elsewhere for signs of the future.

I want to see how Jordanian society is changing. The main project of the Parliament is to make sure that the most recent evidence from the field is used in the process of making policy. It is not enough to look elsewhere for signs of the future.

LETTERS

cs vs. anti-hate

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

to draw the line?

How long is the school day?

By Richard Tanner

DECIDING THE length of the school day is like asking the length of a piece of string. Jordan's 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. school day is quite short, like that of most government workers. By comparison, Britain's traditional '9 to 4' day is longer, and school days in East Asia much longer (and days per year longer again). Indeed, the Japanese have recently passed a law restricting after-hours coaching to less than an hour a day for younger children.

During the last 10 years, British schools have been reducing the length of their school day. I cut mine from '9 to 4' to 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., mainly by cutting the lunch break. Since World War II, school lunches had been subsidised to ensure a healthy diet for the nation's children, but when Thatcherism rolled back the carpet of socialism, the school meals service went into decline. Traditional "family" sittings were replaced by "eating on the hoof" snack-bar style, children had more time to play and get into trouble in hour-long breaks, teachers withdrew their supervision once allowed to, and lunch-breaks became every headteacher's nightmare.

As discipline began to break down, and they had the problem of settling students every afternoon, teachers agreed to proposals to cut the breaks and the school day. Lunch time activities were lost, sometimes added at the end, and the 6-hour day, less 1/2 hour break plus 1/2 to 2 hours' homework, came in to match the reduction from 40 to 37 hours a week in most jobs.

Similar to Jordanian school hours, this is marginally more than most North American schools, with proportionately less for younger pupils.

But is such limited time good for students or efficient use of expensive buildings? Not according to my current school which is continually expanding its school day. Most weekdays see extensions for activities: Sports, drama and music, environmental clubs, Crown Prince Awards and the like; the main library is open from 7:30 a.m. through 4 p.m. However, the school largely empties as the school buses leave, of teachers as well as students. Despite Thursday Club, sports fixtures, weekend and summer camps, the valuable plant stands idle for most of the time.



High school student takes year-end exam (file photo)

Most government schools are the same, even when they are the biggest capital investment in their communities. Contrast the schools with the facilities of most Jordanian homes, ill-equipped as they are to handle modern resource-based learning. As the information revolution gains momentum, how many Jordanian homes have the books and computers to deal with it? How many parents are updating their knowledge so they can help their children more? How, in areas of the Kingdom where 35 per cent of mothers are illiterate, will children not be severely disadvantaged?

Consider too the learning needs of a typical young Jordanian. She needs to know classical and modern Arabic to operate in the Arab World, English for the international world and maybe French or Russian or Swedish or Urdu if that's his/her mother tongue. Maths, science and social studies follow, an hour a day leaving no space for creative, physical, vocational or social learning in the 30-hour week.

Consider too the teaching potential of most parents and families. Excluding the 15 per cent illiterates, most Jordanians have been inadequately educated — relocation by war, large families and poverty have taken their toll. Yet

most of these parents are desperate for their children to do well at school, to use education as a ladder to escape their grinding poverty. But, as the gap between traditional learning and modern knowledge widens, so these parents can do little to help their offspring.

Similar problems in inner-city communities in the U.K. and U.S. have been addressed through keeping schools open longer. Recent immigrants from the Caribbean and Southeast Asia, from Mexico and East Asia, have used the extra time to offset educational disadvantages. In such schools, evening and weekend classes have whole families of recent immigrants leaving English together, small groups working on remedial and advanced studies in all subjects, boys studying the Koran and groups learning about their Afro-Caribbean culture or Asian religions. These classes, run by the people for the people, are so much more than youth clubs to keep wayward kids off the streets or evening classes providing culture and relaxation for the middle-classes. Of course, such programmes cost money, and the poor are willing to pay for what benefits them. The costs need not be great. If school management sees such hirings as marginal, charges can be

low. If older brothers and sisters, parents, the retired and other volunteers give their services (almost) for free, tuition fees are small. If parents are freed to go to work, if local government finds it cheaper to fund classes and avoid vandalism, if local companies find it cost-effective to train potential workers and retrain existing employees, then extending school opening hours can be self-financing.

Jordan needs to choose between this "inner-city" model and the E. Asian "longer hours" alternative. We are moderately rich so we have to invest our limited wealth carefully. The belief in education as a way out of poverty is as strong here as it was in Western Europe or East Asia after World War II. Schools can be a bridge to a brave new world as Hong Kong and Singapore have proved. Opening school doors for longer would be a major step forward, especially for poor rural and inner-city areas. Developing the full potential of each and every one of our citizens is our social, economic and moral duty.

The writer, an ex-principal of a British school, is now teaching at Anman Baccalaureate School. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Portugal's soil reveals signs of Christian-Muslim coexistence prior to Arabs' expulsion

The soil of Portugal is revealing fascinating evidence of the coexistence of Christianity and Islam before the Arabs were expelled. Rudolf Grimm tells how archaeologists are studying early European Islamic history.

HAMBURG — Archaeologists are finding impressive remnants of the 500-year reign of Islam along the Algarve coastline of Portugal.

German archaeologists for several years studied a villa complex on the Algarve that has revealed almost 1,000 years of history from the days of the Roman empire until the end of the Middle Ages.

Details of the study were published recently in the German archaeological magazine in Deutschland.

Even the name Algarve has its origins in Arabic: the Muslims called the western part of the southern Iberian peninsula "Al Gharb." The entire area was referred to as "Al Andalus."

The "villa rustica" in the former Roman harbour town of Ossunoba was erected in the first century. The area is today known as Faro.

The complex eventually extended into a country estate. During the fourth century a fountain in the style of a heathen temple was built near the main building. This installation was changed into a Christian church with a baptismal chapel a century later.

A cemetery was established nearby. During the period of Arab rule that began in the eighth century the villa complex was still inhabited, Arabic graffiti found on one of the pillars indicates.

The graffiti were found to be blessings for members of a large family that had lived in the area for at least four generations. As almost all the family had Christian-type first names, researchers speculate that it was a local family which converted to Islam.

Possibly the family was also descended from the first owners during Roman times. This ended in the fifth century when Rome recognised the independence of the western Gothic empire in southern France and its conquests on the Iberian peninsula.

In the year 711 the last western Gothic king, Roderich, was defeated by Arab-Berber forces led by Tariq Ibn Ziyad who crossed the Strait of Gibraltar from North Africa. The Muslims during their initial rule tolerated the Christians.

During the ninth century there were still three archbishops, 18 bishops and several monasteries in the area. An old grave-stone identified a bishop of Ossunoba, called Ukskunuba by the Arabs.

The influence of Christianity can be seen from the fact that from the tenth century onwards the city was called Shantmaruyya or Shanta Marila Al Gharb after the Virgin Mary.

Islamic archaeology is a relatively new area of study. Islamic studies used to concentrate on analysis of the art, collection of artefacts and the study of Arabic texts. It has since been realised that many questions can only be answered by looking in the soil.

An important centre for Islamic archaeology in "Al Gharb Al Andalus" is in the town of Meritola. In Silves a museum documents the history of the city. It was here that the last Arab administrative seat on the Algarve was situated: the population of Yemeni extraction, was more Islamic

than that in the previous administrative centre of Shantmaruyya.

In the year 1240 the Portuguese invaded Silves, which was called Xelb at the time.

During digs at the fortress an impressive picture of Arab rule along the Algarve has emerged. The body of a young man found beneath a layer of ashes. Embedded in his chest was an iron projectile, probably fired by a Christian soldier.

While in neighbouring Spain the last Islamic bastion, the Alhambra of Granada, remained unconquered until the year 1492, when the Portuguese kings were already rolling back Arab influence. The Portuguese conquest of the port of Ceuta on the North African coast in the year 1414 inaugurated the European colonisation of Africa.

DPA Features

Stay linked while in Qatar

Take Fastlink with you to MENA.

Sign up for Fastlink's Roaming Service and stay linked while in Qatar.

For more information call us at: Amman-863750, Tayebat Village-770770
Aqaba-03-322557, Irbid-02-251691 or dial 111 on your mobile.

Fastlink
Jordan Mobile Telephone Service

April 19) — You might achieve it but after this afternoon. You might be done before. Experience you're ready now. Don't let the others go together you can solve even it.

May 20) — Aries' rays tend to bring out of certain individuals. They'll be there always seem to have an enemy who's lack of planning ruin you a few bucks, however, you.

June 21) — You'll notice that people in their charts are circling each other. They're looking at each other. Take notes, but don't let the dust settle.

July 22) — If your boss is an enemy, you're going off. Your mission, should be to keep things on an even keel. Someone in the group who is calm will be you. Keep your major objective.

Aug 22) — You want to peek over the fence. But something is locked at home. It could be work that needs a make wonderful trial plans, but don't start on your expedition yet.

23-September 23) — There's no peace in a hot controversy today. Let the two sides between themselves. Meaningful things are done. When it becomes run, choose your next course of action.

23-October 23) — Aries people are too bumptious today. They might be a bit because with Aries you know a lot. By now, you're getting under a thing and don't let them team up with anyone.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

24-November 24) — Aries will be out in front. You're the backbone. The move. Aries is the best person who have Aries in their chart. All the noise. Just watch them and see what next.

Business & Finance

Jordan Times, Tuesday, November 11, 1997 9

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Three international firms to conduct studies on transforming Aqaba into a free zone

THE JORDANIAN government has reached agreement with three international firms to conduct executive studies on transforming Aqaba into a free zone. According to informed sources at the Ministry of Planning, the Jordanian government has asked six international companies to submit offers to conduct the study. But the final agreement was reached with U.S., Irish and Malaysian firms to carry out the detailed study which will cost approximately JD700,000.

The sources expected the study to be completed by mid-1998 to be followed by practical and technical steps to transform Aqaba into a free zone. The study includes exploring the relative advantage of Aqaba and specifying the market and the demand on investment. It also includes studying the organisational and legislative environment and the institutional framework as well as evaluating the lands and their usage. Furthermore, the study will examine the development costs and look into economic, financial and analytical aspects before formulating a strategy to develop the port and, finally, the execution design.

According to initial studies, the free zone will start at an area between Aqaba and the village of Taybet and cover 34 square kilometres. The sources confirmed that the international firms have conducted preliminary studies of the area and found that some components of the infrastructure is suitable to transform it into a free zone, especially the Aqaba airport in terms of location and area.

The initial cost for transforming Aqaba into a free zone will be around \$3 billion over a period of nine years. (Al Arab Al Yawm).

UAE-based group to buy 51% stake in Pakistani bank

KARACHI (AFP) — A business group based in the United Arab Emirates Monday offered the highest price for a 51 per cent stake in state-owned First Women Bank Limited (FWBL) in Pakistan, officials said.

The Bin HAM Group will pay \$285.6 million rupees (\$6.64 million) for 10.2 million shares, besides injecting 200 million rupees (\$4.65 million) in equity, the government's Privatisation Commission said.

The deal will be implemented after final approval by a cabinet committee headed by Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, which is to meet in a few days, the commission said, after an open bidding session in Islamabad.

The control of FWBL will be transferred to Bin HAM Group, which will also be given an option to buy at the same price an additional 31.65 per cent shares currently held in the bank by the private Muslim Commercial Bank.

'Bank of the poor' founder criticises World Bank

PARIS (AFP) — Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank which specialises in helping poor countries with small loans has criticised the World Bank and "the way it addresses the issues of development" in these countries.

Development is, for the World Bank, only a question of "infrastructure, building highways and growth as a solution for everything," Mr. Yunus charged.

But the mass of the population do not benefit from such projects, he said. "People look at the cars on the highway, and the poor remain poor," Mr. Yunus told AFP.

The Grameen Bank aims to enable the poorest people to improve their financial situation by helping them set up small businesses.

It says that 90 per cent of its loans are reimbursed.

In Bangladesh alone 10 per cent of the population have benefited from the Grameen Bank.

The bank has spread its method or inspired similar systems in 56 countries including the United States (in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Chicago), Norway, China and South Africa.

A first "micro-credit" world summit took place in Washington in February.

Mr. Yunus acknowledged that World Bank president James Wolfensohn has shown a "personal interest" in the micro-credit system, but said that while "some individuals are more receptive, behind them is the institution."

"What we are fighting are the mind-sets," Mr. Yunus said.

The World Bank, he said, was an institution investing \$60 billion each year in development, "a business, people selling things."

In Bangladesh, the Grameen Bank is concentrating on new technologies, Mr. Yunus said. It has created the "Grameen phone" which enables often uneducated women in rural areas to earn a living by selling a portable telephone service.

WorldCom buys B.T.'s 20% share in MCI for \$37 billion

LONDON (AFP) — British Telecommunications (B.T.) said Monday it remained committed to expanding into the United States, despite bowing out of the race to take over the number two long-distance carrier, MCI Communications.

B.T. agreed to sell its 20 per cent share in MCI to WorldCom, the fast-growing U.S. long-distance operator which secured the agreement of its larger rival to snap it up for around \$37 billion.

The abandonment of British Telecom's ambitions to buy MCI closed the final chapter on a deal which the former state monopoly had presented as a key plank of its strategy of transforming itself into a global telecoms player.

But B.T. chief executive Peter Bonfield insisted: "B.T. remains strongly positioned and has many opportunities to pursue alternative alliances in the U.S."

"This agreement clearly gives an immediate benefit to our shareholders and retains both B.T.'s ability to meet the needs of customers and the flexibility to pursue an aggressive global strategy with a strong U.S. presence," chairman Sir Iain Vallance said.

From a financial perspective, the British telecoms group will walk away with a generous cash pay-off, a prospect which drove B.T.'s share price up by 12.625 pence to 466.25.

With a price tag of \$7 billion for B.T.'s stake, and the payment of a "break-up fee" of \$465 million by MCI, the British telecoms group will make a pre-tax gain of \$2.25 billion from its U.S. transactions.

B.T. will also retain a controlling share in its joint venture with MCI, known as Concert, which provides telecommunication services to multinational businesses.

But telecoms analysts in London said that B.T. was in a tricky situation, since there were no obvious candidates on the other side of the Atlantic for it to buy.

"It certainly has set them back substantially," Mark Lambert from U.S. investment bank Merrill Lynch said of B.T.'s failed takeover of MCI, launched almost a year ago.

"They've got lots of cash, which gives them some extra ammunition going forward, but I'm not sure where it will take them, and that isn't particularly promising for the strategy long-term," he added.

For a company such as B.T., anxious not to be swept aside by rationalisation of the global telecoms market into a handful of top players, a U.S. link-up is essential. It would provide a presence in the world's biggest and most technologically-advanced telecommunications market.

In Europe, B.T. offers a good partner as it has positioned itself ahead of liberalisation of the 15-member European Union's telecoms market on Jan. 1, 1998, with a series of strategic alliances.

But there are few U.S. suitors available.

"There's a lot of potential partners out there, but the problem B.T. faces is that a lot of those companies are extremely large," the Merrill Lynch analyst said.

One possible candidate is GTE, the biggest U.S. local carrier, which appeared ready to strike a three-way deal with B.T. in mid-October when it launched a counterbid for MCI, but it would be an expensive target.

The "Baby Bells," local carriers which were split off from AT and T, such as Bell South and Nynex, are also an option, but are not very attractive partners.

B.T. may have scale down its ambitions, and opt for a looser arrangement, like its European rivals, France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom, rather than buy a company.

AT and T, the biggest long-distance operator, is already in an alliance with a group of European telecoms companies, while Sprint, the number three in the long-distance market, is tied to France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom, but B.T. could conceivably muscle in.

China to triple imports of Saudi oil

RIYADH (AFP) — China is to triple its imports of Saudi crude in 1998, Oil Minister Ali Ben Ibrahim Al Nuaimi has said.

"China is to increase its imports of Saudi crude from 20,000 barrels per day (b/d) to 60,000 b/d in 1998, on top of other spot orders depending on demand in China," he said, quoted by the official news agency SPA.

Since 1993, China has been a net importer of oil, and it will need 3.9 million b/d by 2000 and 5.3 million b/d by 2010, a Chinese official said.

Its current output is estimated at 3.14 million b/d.

IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

A LEADING JORDANIAN TRADING COMPANY IS SEEKING TO RECRUIT A FULL TIME EXPERIENCED SECRETARY, PRESENTABLE & CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE MANAGER'S OFFICE.

GOOD EXPERIENCE IN: - COMPUTER (BOTH ARABIC & ENGLISH) ORGANIZING THE FILES, - CORRESPONDENCE, - ABLE TO TAKE MINUTES OF MEETING, - THE ABILITY TO WORK AS A TEAM MEMBER.

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE THE RIGHT CANDIDATE, KINDLY CALL:

817173 OR 818173 OR 819173 (MISS ELIZABETH)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Building located in Shmeisani, requests proposals for installing a card-access system for its main 8 story building. Firms with demonstrated experience in installing card access systems in Jordan should make an appointment to visit the facilities' and discuss the security requirements, please call Rola on 680-100 ext. 313 or fax 699-344 to arrange an appointment.

Closing date for appointments is the 16th of November and closing date for submitting the proposals is the 29th of November 1997 at 2 p.m.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL: 684311-699634

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor

Jordan Society for Development

Bani Hamida

Welcomes you to the Fall Exhibition

"Encounter"

On display are rugs designed by the Japanese textile designer "Tomoko Iyoda" (A member of JOCV / JICA)

Japan International Cooperation Agency woven by the Bani Hamida weavers

On Thursday 6 Nov. thru Tuesday 25 Nov. 1997 at The Bani Hamida House

1st circle, off Rainbow St.

Open daily from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Fridays & official holidays from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by: BRITISH AIRWAYS & FINE

For more information, please call: 658696 / 7.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607172											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 10/11/1997											
PART	12 MONTHS HIGH	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
346,000	245,000		ARAB BANK	14.9	1.33	12	380	123500	326.00	325.00	1.00-
2,340	1,680		JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	23	12013	21627	1.81	1.80	0.01-
5,800	4,100		CAIRO AMMAN BANK	10.3	3.00	2	2000	10800	5.00	5.00	0.00
2,600	2,760		BANK JORDAN	6.3	0.00	6	6050	17889	2.93	2.98	0.05+
2,660	2,150		INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.5	5.99	9	5850	15474	2.65	2.64	0.01-
5,200	4,600		THE HOUSING BK.	15.1	3.85	3	13300	67032	5.04	5.04	0.00
4,180	2,440		JOR. KIWAT BANK	12.0	0.00	21	5224	176432	3.35	3.37	0.02+
1,050	740		JOR. GULF BANK	4.6	8.97	2	200	156	7.78	7.78	0.00
4,120	3,450		ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	20.1	0.00	1	200	938	4.12	4.19	0.07+
4,080	3,430		JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.5	3.16	68	4016	15387	2.62	2.60	0.02-
1,530	1,110		UNION TR. SAV. INV.	8	0.00	1	1600	1886	1.20	1.18	0.02-
3,900	3,080		JOR. INV. FTM. BANK	24.4	0.00	1	6600	25080	3.81	3.80	0.01-
1,900	870		BETT-AL-HAL (BEITNA)	6	16.67	1	250	226	8.9	9.0	0.10+
5,150	3,570		ARAB BANKING CO.	18.0	0.00	5	1000	3640	3.57	3.73	0.16+
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 234.85 %CHG: -0.09 155 142624 617563											
2,310	1,820		ARAB LIFE INSUR.	9.1	4.26	2	225	528	2.30	2.35	0.05+
2,580	1,990		JORDAN GULF INSUR.	9	0.00	3	121654	304135	2.43	2.50	0.07+
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 117.37 %CHG: +0.43 5 121879 304663											
2,080	1,550		JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.32	19	6772	12668	1.88	1.88	0.00
4,030	1,320		TRABID ELECTRICITY	18.4	3.72	1	100	309	3.25	3.09	0.16-
3,050	2,300		JOR. SHIPPING LINES	14.3	5.31	2	143	348	2.49	2.45	0.04-
1,010	820		REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	3	8250	7660	9.2	9.2	0.00
1,100	900		SANAA EDUCATION	9	0.00	2	1000	930	0.93	0.93	0.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 109.64 %CHG: -0.16 28 16300 22027											
4,450	3,030		JOR. CEMENT FACT.	21.1	3.51	14	17902	55853	3.12	3.13	0.01+
4,140	3,000		JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	9.7	2.86	4	219	766	3.50	3.50	0.00
7,050	5,570		ARAB POTASH CO.	15.1	3.08	14	23850	154945	6.40	6.50	0.10+
11,160	9,070		JOR. PETROLE. REFINERY	10.5	8.19	8	746	8093	10.90	10.85	0.05-
1,110	1,050		WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	9.7	8.93	4	550	613	1.09	1.12	0.03+
3,260	1,330		INDUSTRIAL CONN. AGR.	11.6	0.00	4	1250	1766	1.45	1.42	0.03-
4,700	3,040		ARAB PHARM. MANF.	15.2	6.50	10	1850	2254	1.18	1.23	0.05+
1,020	500		UNION TR. SAV. INV.	8	0.00	2	350	482	1.40	1.36	0.04-
1,480	1,050		RAFIA INDUSTRIES	13.8	4.42	6	2206	12466	5.69	5.65	0.04-
6,000	4,300		DAR ALDAMA DV. INV.	9.7	0.00	8	7000	3220	4.07	4.06	0.01-
450	450		LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	4	1500	765	0.52	0.51	0.01-
1,200	510		INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	4	1500	765	0.52	0.51	0.01-
920	530		JOR. ROCKWELL INDOS.	9	7.14	6	1950	2743	1.41	1.40	0.01-
2,870	1,410		UNIV. CHEM. INDOS.	12.6	0.00	1	1200	372	1.95	1.86	0.09-
3,000	1,950		NATL. CABLE WIRE. MPAC	29.9	5.51	6	11600	14733	1.29	1.27	0.02-
890	530		JOR. SULPHON. CHEM.	16.2	0.00	2	1200	372	1.95	1.86	0.09-
1,670	1,120		ARAB PHARM. MANF.	15.2	6.50	10	1850	2254	1.18	1.23	0.05+
1,880	1,080		UNIV. MED. INDOS.	9	0.00	4	1500	765	0.52	0.51	0.01-
1,410	820		JOR. INDOS. RESOURCES	10.9	12.35	12	8400	5804	0.82	0.81	0.01-
1,620	1,300		NATL. CHLORINE	14.2	4.61	4	800	2213	1.51	1.52	0.01+
1,070	810		JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.8	0.00	1	750	645	0.87	0.86	0.01-
2,090	1,340		EL - ZAY READY WEAR	50.0	0.00	1	1000	1420	1.43	1.42	0.01-
1,330	1,080		INTL. TOBACCO	6.6	0.00	7	7300	8760	1.20	1.20	0.00
810	720		JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	2	1450	1102	0.75	0.76	0.01+
840	570		HID. EAST COMPLEX	7.0	17.54	11	18550	10574	0.58	0.57	0.01-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 117.89 %CHG: +0.62 162 122723 312500											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 170.84 %CHG: +0.16 350 403526 1254553											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 10/11/1997											
630	300		CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	2	500	158	0.22	0.22	0.00
610	370		JOR. TRADE PAC.	9.9	0.00	6	6350	2350	0.38	0.37	0.01-
800	460		UNION TR. SAV. INV.	8	0.00	2	400	98	0.76	0.74	0.02-
570	360		ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	23	80528	32211	4.40	4.40	0



Former World No. 1 Steffi Graf

Graf comeback set for December 11

BONN (AFP) — Former World No. 1 Steffi Graf will return to the courts on December 11 at Bremerhaven, Germany, and not a week earlier at the Masters of Champions event in Frankfurt as originally planned.

Seven-time Wimbledon champion Graf, who has not played since June when she lost to Amanda Coetzer of South Africa in the French Open quarter-finals, announced on Sunday she would not play in the event in Frankfurt.

Graf underwent knee surgery in June.

"I still lack fitness because of my long lay-off and I don't want to rush things," Graf said.

Graf makes her return in an exhibition against compatriot Anke Huber at Bremerhaven before rejoining the WTA Tour in Australia in January as a forerunner to the Australian Open in Melbourne.

The WTA have announced that Graf, currently World No. 14, will regain the third ranking which she had during the French Open when she returns to action.

Weary Chelsea down West Ham

LONDON (AFP) — Chelsea shook off a lingering European hangover to beat London rivals West Ham 2-1 at Stamford Bridge and keep themselves in touch with the Premiership leaders on Sunday.

The West London club, who have lost all three of their previous matches immediately following European Cup Winners Cup encounters, secured three vital points courtesy of an own goal from West Ham defender Rio Ferdinand and a late strike from Gianfranco Zola.

But Ruud Gullit's side, 7-1 winners over the Norwegians of Tromso at Stamford Bridge on Thursday, had to survive a nail-biting finish to the game after West Ham's John Hartson pulled a goal back with an 85th-minute penalty.

Zola, playing up front with Mark Hughes, mis-kicked from 15 yards in the 28th minute but his next effort had Hammers' goalkeeper Craig Forrest diving to scramble the ball past the post.

At the other end, Chelsea keeper Ed De Goey pulled off a wonderful save to defy Steve Lomas on 31 minutes. Zola then fired a free-kick straight at Forrest but beat the 'keeper on the stroke of half-time with another dead ball effort — only for Ferdinand to head it off the line.

Chelsea finally made the breakthrough on 56 minutes — and they had England squad member Ferdinand to thank for it.

Zola put in a cross from the goal line on the right and 19-year-old Ferdinand managed to steer the ball into his own net as he tried to clear.

But just two minutes later Harrison pulled a goal back for the visitors, hitting a penalty confidently past De Goey after a foul on Samassi Abou to make the score 2-1.

Pistons lose 4th straight match; Lakers, Kings win

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal, playing in just his second game of the season, had 27 points and 19 rebounds Sunday night as the unbeaten Los Angeles Lakers overpowered winless Golden State 132-97.

O'Neal finished 10-of-17 from the field and 7-of-12 from the foul line while playing 29 minutes. He came out of the game for good with 1:59 left in the third quarter and the Lakers leading 88-61.

The Warriors (0-6) are off to their worst start since they moved to the Bay Area from Philadelphia in 1962. Kobe Bryant scored a

career-high 25 points for the Lakers (4-0), who are off to their best start since beginning the 1987-88 season with a franchise-record eight wins.

Seattle 112, Philadelphia 105: In Philadelphia, Vin Baker had 25 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Seattle SuperSonics to their fourth straight win.

Hersey Hawkins scored 20 points for Seattle, while Gary Payton had 16 points, 14 assists and six steals.

Allen Iverson led Philadelphia with 23 points and 10 assists.

Kings 86, Knicks 78: In Sacramento, California,

rookie Michael Stewart sparked a rally with eight points and eight rebounds in the fourth period as the Sacramento Kings won their first game of the season.

Mitch Richmond scored 23 points, including 11-of-11 from the free throw line, and Corliss Williamson added 18 points for the Kings, who had lost their first four games.

Patrick Ewing's 21 points led the Knicks, who were outscored 23-11 in the fourth period.

Grizzlies 104, Pistons 96: In Vancouver, British Columbia, Blue Edwards scored eight points in over-

time, including a key 3-point shot with 3:06 left, as Vancouver handed the Detroit Pistons their fourth straight loss.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies, while Bryant Reeves finished with 22 points and 10 rebounds.

Lindsey Hunter led the Pistons with 23 points, while Malik Sealy added 20.

Grant Hill had 14 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists for Detroit, but was held to two points in the final 21 minutes.

West winning goal keeps Inter 2 points ahead

PARIS (AFP) — Italian league leaders Inter Milan stayed two points ahead of reigning champions Juventus on Sunday night after both the Serie A's top clubs scored 2-1 victories.

Nigerian defender Taribo West was Inter's surprise hero, the Olympic champion ghosting through to score his first goal in Italy — an 88th minute winner against Atalanta.

A tough game brought out the best and worst in Inter's Yuri Djorkaeff — the Frenchman heading them into a 27th minute lead but getting sent off in the 72nd minute.

Ronaldo hit the post of an empty goal after reaching a through-ball before the Atalanta 'keeper, and also prompted the 67th minute sending off of Atalanta's Andrea Sottil.

Nicola Caccia then bagged an equaliser 10 minutes from the end, only for West to guide his match-winner into the left-hand corner.

Inter coach Gigi Simoni said: "We had the courage and conviction to believe in ourselves when they equalised. And with that, we were able to win after what was a long struggle."

Alessandro Del Piero celebrated his 23rd birthday by



Brazilian striker of PSG Rai (R) manages the ball as Olivier Echouafni of Marseille (L) looks on in their French soccer league match. Paris Saint-Germain is the leader of the championship, Marseille is fourth placed (Reuters photo)

laying on Juventus' opening goal for France's Zinedine Zidane in their win over Napoli.

Claudio Bellucci equalised for Napoli but Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca scored six minutes from the end to earn Juventus their seventh consecutive win in league and cup action.

However Lazio striker Pierluigi Casiraghi, whose team beat Sampdoria 3-0 at home, may miss the second leg of the World Cup sudden-death play-off against Russia on November 15 in Naples.

Casiraghi hurt his left knee in a challenge with France's Omar Dieng.

Barcelona slumped to a shock 2-1 defeat at home to strugglers Real Valladolid on Sunday night, losing their unbeaten Spanish League record.

Barca's shock defeat came just four days after they lost 4-0 at home to Dynamo Kiev, ending their chances of advancing in the European Champions League.

Valladolid scored only their second win of the season thanks to goals from Eusebio and Croatian Alen Peternac. Barcelona's only reply was a last-minute strike from Juan Antonio Pizzi.

Barcelona still have a four-point lead over Real Madrid

at the table but the loss may heighten speculation about the future of Dutch coach Louis van Gaal.

In the another match played Sunday, Israeli striker Haim Revivo netted twice as third-placed surprise packets Celta Vigo beat Tenerife 3-1 away.

Atletico Madrid downed Compostela 3-1 to stay fourth but their win could prove an expensive one. Their star Italian striker Christian Vieri suffered a pulled hamstring muscle and could be out of action for several weeks.

Vieri is considered almost certain to miss Italy's World Cup qualifying match against Russia next weekend.

On Saturday night, champions Real Madrid scrambled to an unimpressive 2-1 win away to Racing Santander.

Laurent Blanc earned Marseille a 2-1 win at Paris Saint Germain on Sunday after converting a disputed penalty in a highly-charged atmosphere at the Parc des Princes.

PSG are now level on 30 points with second-placed Metz, who beat Guingamp 2-1 on Saturday, and Marseille.

In Sunday's other game, two late goals from substitute David Trezeguet helped defending champions Monaco beat Nantes 3-2 to climb two places to fifth.

On Saturday, fourth-placed Bordeaux are a point behind the leaders after they were held to a goalless draw at home to mid-table Lyon, while Lens beat struggling Rennes 3-2, Tony Vairelles scoring a late winner.

Bayern Munich limped to a 1-0 victory over Arminia Bielefeld on Saturday to remain second, four points behind Kaiserslautern, narrow winners against Hansa Rostock on Friday evening.

Giovane Elber scored the only goal of the day in Bayern's Olympic stadium, which was only a two thirds full to watch the visitors slide to their seventh consecutive away defeat.

Although Bayern were far from being on top form, Mehmet Scholl and Carsten Jancker combined well in the 24th minute before passing to Elber, who struck the winner from eight yards out.

Arminia dropped back one place to 14th after their defeat, but stay one point above Dortmund, who drew 1-1 at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Kaiserslautern held onto their pole position after edging Rostock 4-3. Jurgen Rische's two goals made the difference for Kaiserslautern as they took the lead seven minutes from time and then survived a disputed referee's decision not to award Rostock a penalty.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

AA 53 71092 OE Q963 4A 7

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1 2 Pass 1A Pass

What do you bid now?

A - With a ruffing value and an unguarded suit, we would raise to two spades despite having only three-card support. However, only one look with a wet noodle on this hand if you opted to show a balanced minimum by rebidding one no trump. Do not, however, rebid two diamonds.

Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AA J64 OK AK85 AAQ86

What is your opening bid?

A - We have a sneaking admiration for those who mix a club in with the hearts and cheerfully open two no trump. But that is too rich for our blood. Despite the risks, a one-club opening bid gives you a better chance of locating the best contract.

Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AAK10642 OK983 062 4A

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1A Pass 2 2 Pass

What do you bid now?

A - Had your king of spades been the knave, it would be right to rebid the six-card suit. But with 14 high-card points and 3 1/2 defensive tricks, it is better to show your side four-card suit, especially since it is a major, planning to rebid the spades next. Bid two hearts.

Q. 4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

1097 OK Q73 4KQJ1092

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

Pass Pass 10 Pass

What do you bid now?

A - In days gone by you could jump to three clubs to show a hand just short of an opening bid with a good suit. These days the jump will be a passed hand is fit-showing, promising good support for opener's suit and concentrated values in the bid suit, so South can bid only two clubs.

Q. 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AKQJ9852 07 01096 473

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

2A Pass 3NT Pass

What action do you take?

A - Your opening preempt at this vulnerability promised six tricks with spades as trumps. North, who knows exactly what you hold, has opted for three no trump. Can you think of any sound reason to overrule partner's Pass.

Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AAQ1063 0A9J10 0A9J 43

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1A Pass 4A Pass

What do you bid now?

A - We cannot construct a North hand where slam should be any worse than a finesse, and in many cases it will be laydown. To ask for aces is futile — whether or not partner has the ace of clubs will not affect your decision to contract for 12 tricks. Jump to six spades right away. The less the opponents know about your hand, the better.

MR. BEAN .. ON THE CINEMA — Starting today at Concord Cinema ... Tel. 677420

ROWAN ATKINSON

Mr. BEAN

THE ULTIMATE DISASTER MOVIE

Two hours of consecutive laughing

Shows:- (12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30) p.m.

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT IN UM UTHAYNAH

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining room and L-shaped sitting room, deluxe furniture, full kitchen equipment, separate central heating. Telephone is available. Suitable for diplomats.

PLEASE CONTACT Tel.: 5530444 - 5510794

FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 bedrooms ground floor and 3 bedrooms 2nd floor. Situated between the 3rd & 4th Circles (Jabal Amman). Fully furnished with telephone, central heating and satellite. Can be rented for long or short period of time.

Please call Tel.: 642643

Job Appotunity

The Modern Language Center Is looking for a native speaker of American English to teach a Conversation class. Tel: 625582

<p>PHILADELPHIA "1"</p> <p>Jane Reno & Patrick Broyl ... in</p> <p>THE JAGUAR</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>PHILADELPHIA "2"</p> <p>Richard Gere & Julia Roberts ... in</p> <p>PRETTY WOMAN</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>PLAZA</p> <p>Van Damme... in</p> <p>DOUBLE TEAM</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1"</p> <p>Rowan Atkinson... in</p> <p>MR. BEAN</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>CONCORD "2"</p> <p>SLEEP WALKERS</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only</p>	<p>GALLERIA 1</p> <p>ABDOUN</p> <p>Walt Disney's</p> <p>HERCULES</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30</p> <p>CON AIR</p> <p>Shows: 8:30, 10:45</p>	<p>GALLERIA 2</p> <p>ABDOUN</p> <p>SCREAM</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Hisham Youssef Theatre</p> <p>TEL: 625155</p> <p>NOW ON DAILY</p> <p>THE GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE</p> <p>Starring Hisham Youssef and Amal Dabbas</p> <p>For reservations call: 640155-625155</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

the crown for the last two years.

Netanyahu says agreement on Gaza airport almost complete

Differences are still wide — Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were on the verge of completing long-awaited agreements on opening a Palestinian airport and a joint industrial zone in the Gaza Strip.

But he offered no hope for a quick solution of the larger disputes blocking the peace process: Jewish settlement expansion in disputed areas and Israel's failure to honour a U.S.-brokered agreement to remove its troops from more of the West Bank.

Speaking to foreign reporters ahead of planned visits to Britain and the United States, Mr. Netanyahu sought to counter statements by Palestinian leaders that a round of negotiation talks between the two sides in Washington last week had been a waste of time.

"The talks were, by and large, from the reports I got, actually more successful

than meets the eye," Mr. Netanyahu said. He referred to work in technical committees trying to implement steps to expand Palestinian autonomy which Israel was obliged to carry out under interim peace agreements.

"There was progress made in just about all of the committees [and] two of the agreements are virtually ready for completion, on the airport and the industrial park," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"We are very close to signing them. It depends on a desire from the Palestinian side to finish them."

Palestinian negotiators immediately rejected Mr. Netanyahu's assessment as designed to place the blame for the stalemate on their side.

"We reached no agreement on the airport up until now and the differences are still wide on all issues," said Fawaz Zaidan, head of the Palestinian airport team.

Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said the

general mood of the talks is "not looking good." He said Israel was refusing requests for the interim committees to hold daily meetings and to include U.S. representatives.

Other interim issues include the creation of safe passage corridors from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip and the creation of a Gaza deep water port.

All these steps should have been implemented months ago but have been held up by disputes over Israel's insistence on stringent security controls over the Palestinian facilities.

Mr. Netanyahu also reiterated Monday that the notion of a "time out" demanded by the Palestinians and Washington in the expansion of Jewish settlements is not covered in the interim peace accords and should not hold up the talks.

"We still don't know what would be a timeout and what would be a reciprocal timeout on the Palestinian side like the halt to the illegal construction of homes," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Mr. Netanyahu is slated to face tough pressure to bend on settlement expansion, troop withdrawals and interim issues later this week in separate talks in Europe with British leaders and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Palestinian officials said they did not expect any progress in the committee meetings before Ms. Albright meet with Mr. Netanyahu on Friday and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Saturday.

Mr. Netanyahu urged the Palestinians to put aside the interim issues and step to the "real test" in the peace process: negotiations on a permanent peace agreement.

But the Palestinians have rejected this, saying the interim accords and troop withdrawals must be implemented first.

The permanent status talks will deal with the toughest matters including borders between the entities, Jerusalem and a Palestinian demand for statehood.

Beleaguered Netanyahu calls on Israel to rally behind him

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel was at a "historic crossroads" and called on the badly polarised country to rally behind his leadership.

The prime minister spoke to about 3,000 members of the governing Likud Party's central committee at a time when he appears increasingly beleaguered both domestically and internationally.

The convention comes amid a swirl of discord over proposals to change the system of electing the party's Knesset candidates in a way that would enable Mr. Netanyahu to tighten his grip on the party.

"Our strength lies in unifying around the key things, and putting aside the rest," Mr. Netanyahu told the delegates.

In a rare conciliatory gesture possibly aimed at laying the foundation for a joint government with the opposition Labour Party, Mr. Netanyahu avoided his usual criticism of Labour and instead noted its many contributions to the security and development of Israel.

"From this stage I call on the leaders of the opposition to calm the people and to work together to mend the rifts," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"This month we are at a historic crossroads. The Jewish people [and] the Zionist movement...are before fateful decisions that will determine our future."

Mr. Netanyahu did not specify what he meant, but Israel is committed to hand over West Bank land to the Palestinians in November. Mr. Netanyahu has tried to sidestep the commitment, demanding President Yasser

Arafat first to try to stop crackdown on Islamist militants.

Mr. Netanyahu's hard line has caused dissatisfaction in the Clinton administration and is apparently the reason Netanyahu has failed to secure a meeting with Mr. Clinton during his upcoming trip to the United States — an apparent snub by Israel's closest ally.

About a third of Mr. Netanyahu's supporters in parliament are hardliners who threaten to bring him down if he carries out the pullout. But centrist coalition allies who demand that the peace process continue also have the numbers to bring down the government.

His solution has been to offer the Palestinians a deal whereby the expansion of Palestinian autonomy — as part of the existing interim agreements — would be postponed, and instead the sides would begin accelerated talks for a final peace settlement.

The Palestinians have refused this so far, apparently because they don't trust Mr. Netanyahu to agree to Palestinian independence.

One option for Mr. Netanyahu would be to dump his right-wing allies in favour of a broad-based government with the opposition Labour Party, enabling more substantial concessions to the Palestinians.

But opposition leader Ehud Barak, who leads in the polls, has been cool to the idea, hoping to bring down the government instead.

On Saturday, Mr. Barak drew some 200,000 people to Tel Aviv's central square for a rally which was called to mark two years since the

assassination of Yitzhak Rabin but quickly turned into a strident political demonstration against Mr. Netanyahu.

Mr. Netanyahu began the convention Sunday with a moment of silence in Rabin's memory.

The Likud convention was expected to focus on efforts by Mr. Netanyahu supporters to replace the party's primary election system, in which the candidate list for the Knesset are elected by party's estimated 150,000 members. The party leader's control is minimal, and the result has been an unruly Knesset faction.

Under the proposed changes, the list would be elected by the central committee, which is heavily stacked with Mr. Netanyahu loyalists.

Mr. Netanyahu favours the change, as do — apparently — most of the committee members. But it is opposed by most of the party's cabinet ministers and Knesset members, and Mr. Netanyahu promised them last week that it would not be brought to a vote during the convention.

Yet his loyalists have maintained the campaign.

Likud lawmaker Noami Blumenthal said that there was "a lot of tension" in the party over the issue.

In an additional indication of Mr. Netanyahu's awareness of growing cabinet dissatisfaction with his leadership, the prime minister praised each minister individually during his speech.

Earlier, as he was received by the activists with rousing cheers and applause, the cabinet ministers demonstratively remained seated and silent.

Israel, Vatican sign pact legalising Church status in Holy Land

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel and the Vatican took a new step in normalising relations Monday by signing an agreement legalising for the first time the status of the Roman Catholic Church in the Holy Land.

The pact was signed by Foreign Minister David Levy and the apostolic nuncio in Jerusalem, Monsignor Andrea Cordero de Montezemolo.

"I am very happy that this agreement has been signed because it marks a further important step in the process of normalisation of relations between the Holy See and the State of Israel," the papal nuncio said.

The agreement, the first such pact between a Christian church in the Holy Land and Israel, must still be ratified by Israel's parliament, the Knesset.

For the Roman Catholic Church, the accord with Israel comes amid a round of soul-searching and self-criticism concerning Christian responsibility for anti-Semitism and the Church's role during the Holocaust.

But the papal nuncio said Pope John Paul II was not yet ready to confirm his first visit to the Holy Land. "A visit to the Holy Land is in the Pope's heart, but not yet on his agenda," he said.

Under Monday's agreement, the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem, the various Roman Catholic dioceses, monasteries, religious institutions and charities acquired a legal character in Israel.

This permits the institutions to legally own property and take action through the Israeli judicial system.

The effect is to grant autonomy to the internal affairs of a 50-page list of church institutions while affirming Israeli legal jurisdiction over the church's other dealings.

The agreement concerns "areas where Israeli legislation is in effect" — a formula which includes Arab east Jerusalem where the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Christianity's holiest site is located.

Israel's occupation of Arab east Jerusalem in 1967 has never been recognised by the Vatican.

"This is the first time that the legal status of the Roman Catholic Church has been recognised in the Holy Land for 500 years," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.



MOROCCO GETS READY FOR THE POLLS: A veiled Moroccan woman walks past a wall covered with electoral posters Monday in Rabat Medina. Morocco's 13 million eligible voters are asked to elect 325 members of parliament from among 3,319 candidates, including moderate Islamists for the first time, from 16 parties, in general elections scheduled for Nov. 14 (AFP photo)

26 civilians slaughtered in Algeria

PARIS (R) — Suspected Islamist guerrillas killed at least 26 Algerian civilians, including 11 children, slashing their throats or chopping off their heads, an Algerian newspaper said on Monday.

The massacre took place overnight on Saturday and Sunday at H'malite hamlet just outside the garrison town of Blida 50 km south of the capital Algiers. Al Watan newspaper said.

Algeria's main military headquarters and barracks are in Blida.

No one claimed responsibility and the authorities made no comment.

More than 65,000 people have died in violence since 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Le Matin newspaper put the number of victims at 27 — two babies aged four and nine months, 10 children, four women and 11 men.

The assailants stormed the hamlet from three sides, cut the power and mined entrances, the papers said.

They first "neutralised" about 20 pro-government militiamen known as patriots, armed by the authorities to guard villagers against rebel raids, they said.

It was not clear from the reports whether "neutralising" meant the militiamen were killed, wounded or merely forced into a defensive position.

The attackers apparently had a list of their targets. "They shouted my name," said one survivor, quoted by Le Matin.

He added that his eight family members were killed. "They slaughtered them by slashing their throats or by being hacked to death by axes," he said.

"They seemed to be well-informed of the area. They stormed first the abandoned houses which were occupied by the patriots," added another survivor quoted by Al Watan.

The newspaper said some attackers were killed in the clashes with pro-government militiamen.

Le Matin said the assailants kidnapped four

girls after the massacre.

Scores of girls and women have been abducted in similar raids in the past three years and sexually abused.

The authorities say most of the kidnapped women were killed later by the rebels.

More than 200 civilians were killed in Sidi Rais South of Algiers on Aug. 29, according to residents and survivors. The authorities, blaming the killing on Islamist rebels, put the toll at 98 dead and 120 wounded.

About 300 people died in Bentalha on the southern edge of Algiers in a massacre on Sept. 23, survivors said. The government said Islamist rebels slaughtered 85 and wounded 67 in Bentalha.

The massacre in H'malite brought to at least 54 the number of civilians reported killed in massacres or bomb attacks in the past week in Algiers, neighbouring areas of Medea and Blida and the western regions of Tlemcen and Mascara.

'Israeli guard wounded in Amman may have been shot by his partner'

The following report appeared in yesterday's issue of the Israeli English-language newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

ONE OF the two Israeli guards who were wounded in an ambush this past September in Amman was not properly trained and may have even shot his partner in the foot, an internal General Security Service (GSS) report said.

According to Israel Radio, which broke the story, one of the bodyguards was not a member of the pool of trained bodyguards normally used to draw guards for embassies. He did not have the skills nor the proper training, the inquiry reportedly said.

The radio also said the man had never completed a GSS bodyguard training course. He got the job because he had once been a guard at the Israeli embassy in Paris and when he ended his job there he telephoned an "office where guards are often sent" seeking further employment at another

embassy.

He was told that the embassy in Jordan needed reinforcements and, without his credentials being checked, he was sent to Amman. On September 22, he and another guard were performing a routine car patrol through the neighbourhood in which Israelis live in Amman, home to many of the embassy's personnel. Their task was to patrol along the highly policed route leading to the embassy.

As they were driving along the street, a vehicle rushed out of a side road and, in broad daylight, an occupant sprayed fire at their car with a Kalashnikov assault rifle before the assailants fled. The guards were rushed to the hospital with bullet wounds in their legs.

An unknown group calling itself the "Islamic Resistance in Jordan" claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to news agencies in Beirut.

Israel Radio said that,

according to the GSS inquiry, the untrained guard returned fire at the assailants, but there remains the suspicion that he may have wounded his partner, who was driving, in the foot.

After the incident, GSS head Ami Ayalon appointed an internal enquiry headed by a senior GSS officer, who travelled to Amman and questioned the guards and others. Afterwards, the radio said, recommendations were implemented, including changing guidelines and dismissing people.

The two guards were later identified as Moshe Levine and Amikam Hadar. The radio report did not indicate which one was the largest and most elaborate prehistoric monument ever found in Britain.

The find was at least as old and of comparable significance to the Bronze Age megalith monument at Stonehenge, they said. Its location at Stanton Drew in Somerset had been concealed by a series of well-known stone circles.



Russian surgeon uses hip bone to rebuild own thumb

MOSCOW (R) — A Russian surgeon who had an accident at his Dacha country house asked colleagues to experiment on him by rebuilding his mangled right thumb with a piece of pelvic bone. ITAR-TASS news agency said. The operation last week on Valery Agafonov, chief surgeon at the main hospital in Perm, was a success, TASS said. "As a rule, a patient with such an injury is prepared for a big toe transplant, but Agafonov decided on an experiment," the agency reported from Perm, a city in the Ural mountains of central Russia.

George Michael was stoned during recording of 'Older'

LONDON (AFP) — British pop singer George Michael admitted in an interview published on Monday that he composed his latest album "Older" last year while smoking up to 25 hashish "joints" a day. "It was around 25 joints a day. Older was pretty much recorded on cannabis. Who knows what you would have got from me if you had come round then," he said in the interview with a journalist from the Mirror tabloid.

Downing Street rebuked for 'tatty' Union Jack display on annual remembrance

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's Ministry of Defence got a public rebuke from Downing Street Monday for flying a tatty Union Jack upside down and with a hole in it during Sunday's annual remembrance day service in London. The flag was spotted by veterans marching in the annual Royal British Legion parade past the Cenotaph in central London. Downing Street said Prime Minister Tony Blair was "appalled" and had asked the ministry to apologise to the legion. A ministry spokesman said it would apologise for the "very unfortunate" incident.

Manila presidential hopefuls invoke God and stars

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos launched a poll in his ruling party to find his successor and aspirants invoked God, astrology and doomsday scenarios to try to win his backing for their presidential ambitions. Ramos, banned by the constitution from seeking a second term, polled about 1,000 delegates at the nationwide caucus of the Lakas Party to find out who they wanted to be party standard bearer in next May's elections. The candidates seeking Ramos' so-called "anointment" included Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito, who said his platform would be "God-centred politics, development, politics." Another delegate, amid laughter, said: "Why is he scaring us?" Lottery Chief Manuel Morato said he was born under Scorpio and Ramos under Pisces, and the stars should favour him. "There's a strong sympathy between these two signs."

Archaeologists find second Stonehenge

LONDON (AFP) — British archaeologists have discovered buried evidence of a prehistoric ceremonial site in southwest England believed to be as important as Stonehenge. English Heritage officials said Friday that a geophysical survey had revealed traces of "one of the largest and most elaborate prehistoric monuments ever found in Britain." The find was at least as old and of comparable significance to the Bronze Age megalith monument at Stonehenge, they said. Its location at Stanton Drew in Somerset had been concealed by a series of well-known stone circles.

Abu Ghneim settlement bids delayed for 'technical reasons'

By Margot Dudkevitch
The Jerusalem Post

THE HOUSING ministry yesterday denied reports that the publishing of tenders for the construction of 1,000 housing units in Abu Ghneim has been postponed until next year due to political pressure.

The bids were to be advertised this month, once infrastructure work is completed.

Housing ministry spokesman Moshe Eilat claimed the tenders were not included in the ministry's annual work plans for 1997, although all the infrastructure work on the site would be completed by the end of the month.

"As it is already close to the end of 1997, it made more sense to publish the tenders early next year. The decision is an administrative and technical one," Mr. Eilat said.

However, MK Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher), who heads the Knesset lobby for the Land of Israel Front, charged that the delay would generate severe repercussions, especially when the U.S. is pressuring Israel to freeze construction in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

"We are not talking about building in Petah Tikva," he said. "Har Homa is a very sensitive issue and any delay will only serve to bring more pressure on

Israel."

Mr. Kleiner said he hopes the reports emanated from lower-level ministry officials who do not realise what the repercussions of such a postponement might be.

"If there is no building in Har Homa then here is nothing," Mr. Kleiner said, adding that lobby MKs would refuse to vote for the budget if construction plans are delayed.

Mr. Eilat was unable to give definite date for the issuing of tenders in 1998.

He said the ministry is not sure whether bids would be published to construct all 1,000 units at once or in stages.